

GMA prefers Drilon for Senate president

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mall in US

BY CHRISTINE
AVENDAÑO

WHILE his friend Joseph Estrada is in jail, co-accused businessman

ATONG/ A5

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TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2001 ★★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL. 16 NO. 212 ₱15

Abu Sayyaf chief of staff captured

AFP, PNP bickering
over credit for arrest

BY AQUILES Z. ZONIO, PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A top officer of the Abu Sayyaf and three of his men were captured by authorities in this city Sunday afternoon, elating Malacañang but triggering a conflict over credit between the military and the police.

Nadznie Saabdua alias Commander Global, said to be the "chief of staff" of the Abu Sayyaf faction based in Sulu, was presented to the media at the Philippine Army base in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, mid-afternoon yesterday after being flown in from Mindanao.

He has a P5-million prize on his head.

Radio reports from both Camp Crame and General Santos City quoted PNP officials as saying that the police were responsible for

Global's arrest.

The reports said the military "snatched" the Abu Sayyaf leader from police custody in order to fly him to Manila and take credit for the accomplishment.

Global served as spokesperson for the bandit group during the hostage crisis last year, wherein hundreds of millions of pesos changed hands for the release of mostly European tourists abducted from the Malaysian resort island of Sipadan.

APPA/ A14

*Low-profile
intellectual
behind Abu*

BY NORALYN MUSTAFA
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—Nadznie Saabdua alias Commander Global, the first of the Abu Sayyaf leaders to fall into the hands of the law, commands respect not only among his peers but foreign journalists as well.

This was clearly shown in a video, shown on local television, which is perhaps the only record in living color of an actual abduction of foreign journalists, 10 of them in one haul, during last year's Sipadan hostage crisis.

Although the hostages, mostly crew and reporters of European television, were released after 12 hours with the payment of \$25,000 in ransom, the footage taken by an Aus-

LLOW/ A14



THE BOUNTY for the capture of Nadznie Saabdua alias Commander Global and 3 of his men totals P8 million. Global arrives Manila Monday.

No more obstacles in Estrada arraignment

BY VOLT CONTRERAS
AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday removed all legal hindrances to the unprecedented arraignment of a former Philippine president for the capital offense of economic plunder.

The anti-graft court rejected a defense motion to quash the historic case against Joseph Estrada and another motion asking Associate Justice Anacleto Baday Jr. to inhibit himself due to his alleged bias against the accused.

The Sandiganbayan's third division dismissed the petition to scrap the plunder charge "for lack of merit." The court said it disagreed with the claim that the plunder law is unconstitutional due to vagueness.

In the matter of inhibiting himself, Baday admitted displaying "exuberance," but said he was still impartial.

But Estrada lawyers were still bent on stopping, or at least delaying, the arraignment of Estrada, his son Jinggoy and lawyer Ed Serapio, scheduled for 2 p.m. today at the Sandiganbayan in Quezon City.

"It can still be stopped," defense counsel Cleofe Versola told reporters after an afternoon hearing at the Sandiganbayan.

She said the defense would file this morning a petition for certiorari before the Supreme Court, asking the justices to issue a temporary restraining order in connection with the plunder case.

Ombudsman Arturo Desierto, however, predicted that the scheduled arraignment would take place this afternoon despite attempts by the defense panel to again delay the historic trial proceedings.

"Laban (Fight)!" exclaimed Desierto, the chief prosecutor in the People vs. Joseph Ejercito-Estrada case.

"The arraignment will push through as scheduled. I will persevere."

ESTRADA/ A14

Palace relieves Berroya as chief PNP spy

BY DAVE VERIDIANO
AND JULIET JAVELLANA

WAS he fired or promoted?

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the controversial intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police, was relieved of his post yesterday.

But he was given another as-

Bishops back
workers' call
for pay increase

BY NORMAN BORDADORA,
GIL CABACUNGAN JR. AND
GERALD G. LACUARTA

EXPRESSING deep concern over the plight of the poor, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) yesterday joined the mounting calls for an across-the-board wage increase for workers in the private sector.

But the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) warned that the proposal to raise the minimum wages by P125 could force many enterprises to close shop and swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Taking the opposite view, the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) said the wage increase would boost consumer spending and help revive the economy.

"The poor are already suffering so much with the rising cost of basic commodities. It is time for an increase in their wages," said Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who was reelected president of the CBCP during its 82nd Plenary Assembly, wherein it outlined its priorities, including the increased participation of the poor in the Church.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) is also supporting calls for a wage increase.

"We call on the government to be on the side of justice and righteousness—uphold a worker's right to a living wage," Rev. Israel Alvaran of the UMC said in a statement.

The minimum wage in Metro Manila is P250, much lower than the P509 daily income or P15,269 monthly needed to support a family of six beyond the subsistence level.

On Saturday, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas was reported to be in favor of a P125

signment, this time as head of the PNP Central Luzon Command.

But Berroya said his transfer to the Central Luzon Command was a "promotion" because the command was bigger than the PNP intelligence group.

The Central Luzon Command is

perceived as one of the "juicy posi-

tions" among the 15 PNP regional commands.

The relief and transfer of Berroya, who had been accused by the opposition of allegedly feeding "garbage" intelligence reports to President Macapagal-Arroyo and of "masterminding" the alleged demisition job on Sen. Panfilo Lacson,

is said to be part of the ongoing revamp of the PNP.

Lacson declined to comment on the relief and transfer of Berroya.

Aside from approving the PNP revamp, Ms. Macapagal formally established yesterday the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC) to "accelerate the war against

crime," particularly kidnappings and bank robberies.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the President gave her marching orders to officials to neutralize kidnap-for-ransom and bank robbery syndicates within 90 days.

PALACE/ A14

Gloria favors Drilon to head Senate

BY BRINDA OLIVARES-CUNANAN

TO BLOCK the political opposition in the Senate, which could muster as many as 11 votes to win the Senate presidency for Sen. Edgardo Angara, President Macapagal-Arroyo has begun floating her preference for Sen. Franklin Drilon to that top post, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

Over the weekend, the President reportedly called up a few senators belonging to her party, the Lakas-NUCD and the so-called "House bloc" consisting of former congressmen who had been elected to the Senate under the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC).

Among those the President reportedly called were Senators Manuel Villar, Recto and Renato Cayetano.

Less than two weeks before the opening of the Senate on July 23,

the President's choice of Drilon over three other PPC aspirants has been interpreted by Senate insiders as a way of neutralizing the Angara bloc through Drilon.

Angara and Drilon are known to be close friends dating to their stint at the Accra law office. With Drilon the President hopes, according to the Inquirer informant, to win the opposition over for a critical collaboration with her administration.

On July 1, President Macapagal met with the four aspirants from the PPC, namely, Drilon, Senators Joker Arroyo and Renato Cayetano; Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, who was then abroad, was represented by his daughter Gwen. With President Macapagal was political adviser Gabby Claudio.

The President was presented a diagram (see graphics) that listed down five groupings within the Senate as well as four individual

names that were described as "floating."

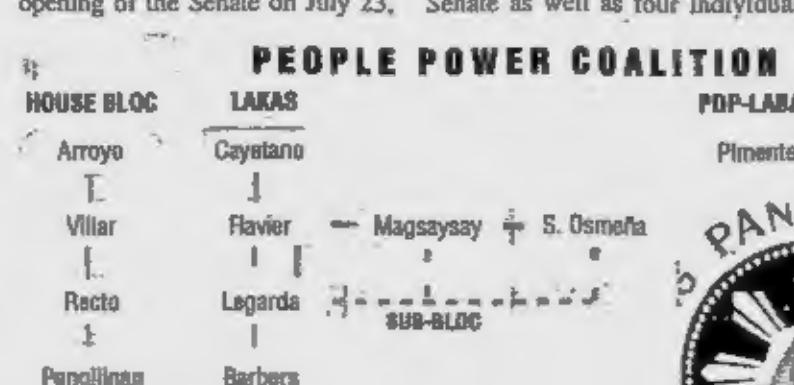
The diagram showed that within the PPC are two groups: Lakas with Cayetano, Senators Juan Flavier, Loren Legarda and Robert Barbers. Flavier claims that in his group there's a "sub-bloc" composed of himself, Legarda and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. Sen. Sergio Osmeña may also be included in this sub-group, even if he ran under the PDP-Laban banner in the last elections.

The Lakas bloc is said to be backing up Cayetano for Senate president.

Also listed with the PPC are Drilon, Pimentel and Sergio Osmeña.

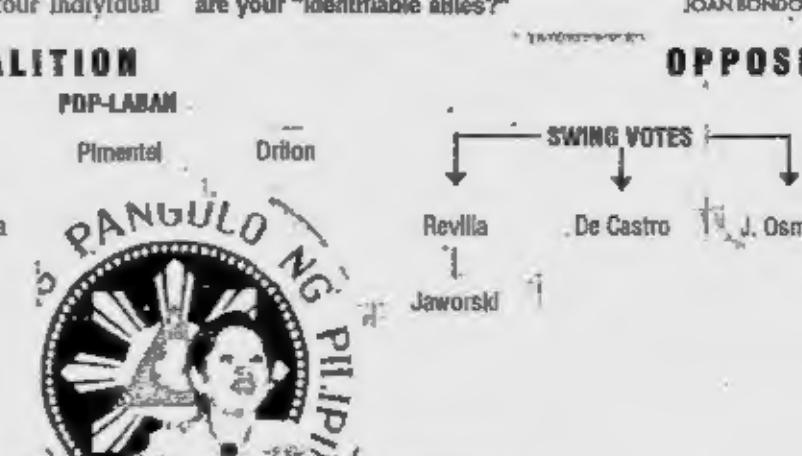
Then there's the new "House bloc" of former representatives elected to the Senate, Villar, Blazon, Honasan, Ople, Sotto and Ortega.

INOCHART LA RIBA



* Senators in PPC Yellow and Opposition Orange are

contenders for the Senate Presidency.





Second FRONT PAGE

Ador gets help from NGOs

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
AND CATHY C. YAMSUAN

CONVINCED that Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador, is telling the truth, civil society groups have formed a seven-man legal panel to prosecute those behind the abduction and possible murder of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

Led by lawyer Leonardo de Vera of the Equal Justice for All Movement, the panel will include Jose Aguila Grapilon, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Argee Guevarra, spokesperson of Santakas party-list group, and human rights lawyer Pete Prinsipe.

The three other panel members will be known at tomorrow's launching of the "Justice for Edgar Movement" in front of the Grand Bay Boulevard Hotel where Bentain was abducted two years ago.

Mawanay, who claims to have been a former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Task Force, has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of ordering the abduction and killing of Bentain in 1999. Bentain earlier released a videotape that showed then presidential candidate Joseph Estrada, Lacson's protégé, playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

At the time of Bentain's disappearance, Lacson

was the national police chief and concurrent head of the PAOCTF.

Mawanay said Bentain was buried alive near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga, on Jan. 16, 1999.

Bentain's family had asked the anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption to form the legal team after finding the revelations of Mawanay "very credible."

De Vera, who with four other lawyers had grilled Mawanay over the weekend, said Ador's answers to their questions proved that "no doubt he worked for Lacson."

Ador came forward to reveal his part in criminal activities allegedly staged by the PAOCTF after sensing that he was targeted for assassination.

He said that several civilian agents in his group had been killed, including a certain "Mang Ben," allegedly a trusted aide of Lacson.

In previous interviews, Ador had implicated Lacson and his protégés, Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and Senior Supt. Cesar Macao in the PAOCTF's illegal activities, particularly in the killing of Bentain.

Ador has also hinted at the participation of Jude Estrada, Estrada's son by Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, in some of the PAOCTF's illegal activities.

"The revelations are very credible and they should be pursued," De Vera said.

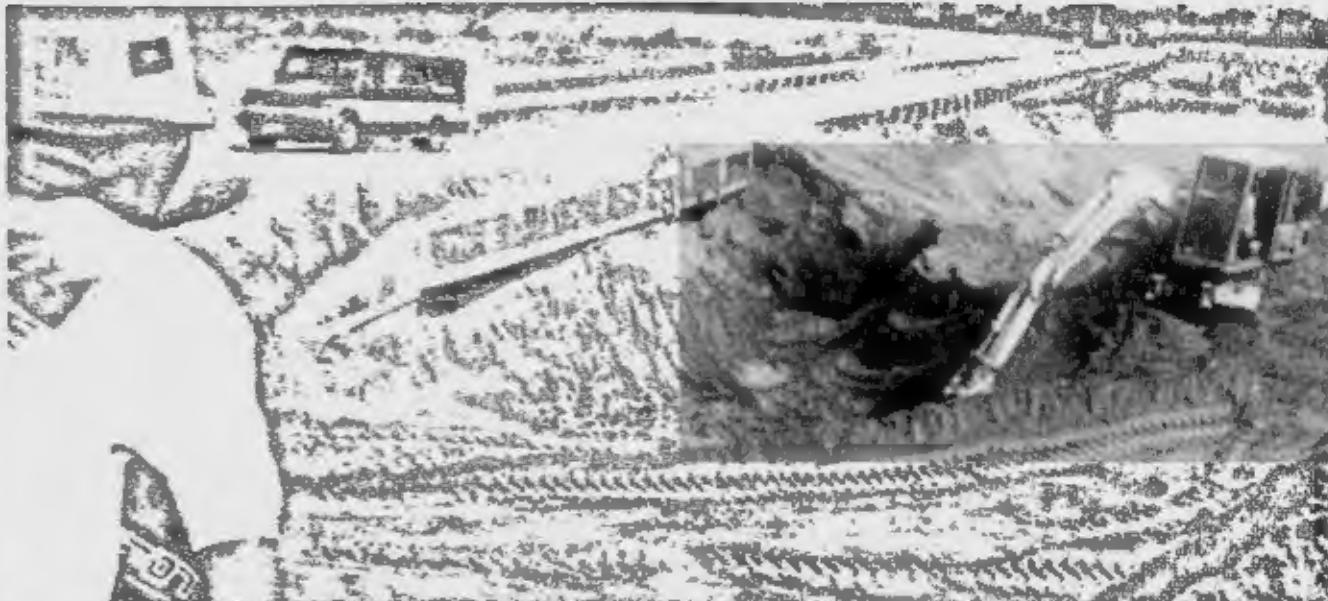
De Vera said the legal team would pursue the case even if authorities failed to recover Bentain's body.

"We don't really need to recover Edgar's body to have a case against the perpetrators as long as there are other credible (pieces of) evidence to corroborate Ador's revelations," he said.

De Vera also said that when he visited Mawanay, the civilian agent recognized him as one of those targeted for kidnapping and liquidation on Lacson's alleged orders.

"He said he recognized me from a photo, and that picture came with instructions for my liquidation," said De Vera, who was part of the panel of private prosecutors in Estrada's impeachment trial.

With reports from Armand N. Nocum and Christine Avendaño



MILITARY agents searching for the body of casino employee Edgar Bentain continue to dig near the Cabetican Bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga.

Search for Bentain body perils megadike

BACOLOR, PAMPANGA—Non-stop digging by military intelligence agents searching for the body of casino employee Edgar Bentain at the foot of the Cabetican Bridge here since last week might destroy an unarmored section of the FVR Megadike, Mayor Romeo Dungca warned Monday.

Local residents also raised fears for the life of a woman who claimed to have seen a drum full of cement near the site where agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force allegedly dumped Bentain's body in January 1999.

Using a backhoe and a payloader from the Pampanga engineering office, at least 10 agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) have excavated two adjacent sites at the eastern section of the bridge since last week.

The Isafp is now looking for metal detectors to help speed up the search.

The diggings, undertaken amid typhoon "Feria's" heavy rains, have proved futile, Senior Supt. Israel Rafanan, Pampanga police director, said.

Angelo Mawanay, alias Ador, who claimed to be a PAOCTF civilian agent and who admitted participating in the abduction and killing of Bentain, allegedly on the orders of

PAOCTF officials, arrived at the site Thursday to confirm the location.

Mawanay claimed that Bentain was sealed alive inside a drum full of cement.

The drum, according to him, was buried in a deep hole in a "long bridge," which turned out to be that in Cabetican.

Aided by the woman, Isafp agents resumed the diggings on Monday, creating a third hole as deep as 10 feet.

Rafanan said the woman, whom Isafp operatives called Julie, had urged the excavation team

to dig deep, saying she had found the drum in a hole as deep as 10 feet.

However, Dungca expressed anxiety over the effect of the diggings on the megadike, Pampanga's main catchment of Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

Officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Central Luzon, which was managing the 56-km long dike, said the Isafp did not coordinate the diggings with the agency.

Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*, with a report from Carlito Pablo in Manila

Now, it's smuggled cell phones

ALLEGED civilian agent Angelo Mawanay alias Ador has claimed

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. made P585 million in illegally selling smuggled cellular phones in one year alone.

In a sworn statement, Mawanay said Lacson was able to dispose of a total of 65,000 units of Nokia 3210 valued at P9,000 each from April 1998 to the first quarter of 1999.

At the time, Mawanay said, Nokia 3210 was selling at P13,000 each from legitimate cellular phone companies.

Lacson, he said, ordered him to find big-time buyers for the smuggled cellular phones and that he was promised a commission of P44,000 per unit.

Mawanay said Lacson owed him as much as P260 million in commission but failed to deliver his end of the bargain.

He said Lacson would sometimes order the seizure of cellular phone units imported by a telecommunications giant even if the importation was properly documented.

Later, Mawanay said, Lacson would order the release of half of the units held and the rest would be sold to the telecommunications giant's competitor at even a lower price.

"Being a salesman, I could easily find buyers. Sometimes, Lacson himself would give me names, then I deliver the units," Mawanay said.

The units were being disposed of "in bulk," he said. The lowest volume

was at 1,000 units per buyer, he added.

The buyers, he said, would pay out in "pay to cash" checks. These checks, Mawanay said, were brought directly to Lacson.

"I was afraid the banks would not cash the checks and would ask me so many questions because of the amount involved. The smallest amount paid out in checks was worth P9 million. The bank would not give that much money to me. So I gave the checks to Lacson, who always promised to give me my commission after the checks were cashed. Not a single centavo came," Mawanay lamented.

Mawanay did not name the buyers in his affidavit but he submitted the list to Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He gave some names to the INQUIRER but asked that the names be withheld.

"Big names are involved. The list is now with Colonel Corpus," Mawanay said.

Mawanay said one of the reasons he came out in the open was Lacson's failure to pay him his commission.

Just so Lacson would give him what was due him, he suggested to the senator to pay him a total of P100 million and the rest of the P160 million would be written off.

"Before the elections, (Senior Supt.) Michael Ray Aquino kept on telling me that the P100 million would be issued to me by Lacson. I realized, Aquino was just saying all those because they wanted me to do more illegal operations like bank robberies for them," he said.

Last month, Mawanay said, he learned that Lacson ordered two civilian agents to kill him for P5 million.

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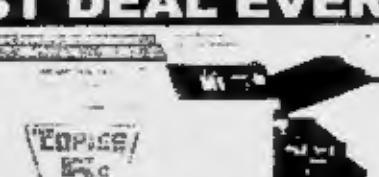
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Gov't receives Swiss, German documents on Marcos billions

THE GOVERNMENT has received documents confirming that Irene Marcos-Arana tried to launder billions of dollars in alleged stolen wealth, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Philippine investigators had been told by their Swiss and German counterparts that Irene, the younger of two daughters of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and her husband Greggory Araneta, had tried to transfer funds to the Deutsche Bank from the Union Bank of Switzerland, Perez said.

Perez's statements confirmed an INQUIRER report last week that a Philippine government delegation sent to Dusseldorf, Germany, had received evidence from German investigators of Irene's attempt to transfer funds from her UBS deposits to the Deutsche Bank's Dusseldorf branch.

UBS has repeatedly denied that it was handling any Marcos or Araneta accounts.

Militants yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to lodge a diplomatic protest with the Swiss government for keeping the ill-gotten wealth in behalf of the Marcoses.

In a statement, the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said the Swiss Embassy in Manila should be informed that "the 75 million Filipinos are outraged" at the Swiss government's preferential bias for the Marcoses.

Perez said the German government had provided documents to prove that Irene and Greggory Araneta, along with four Marcos associates, opened bank accounts in the Deutsche Bank in February reportedly to transfer billions of dollars in Marcos money stashed at the UBS.

No precise figures were given.

German authorities were later forced to close "their investigation of the money-laundering attempt" because no money was transferred and therefore no crime was committed, Perez said.

Moderate quake jolts Metro

A MODERATE earthquake struck Metro Manila and five nearby provinces early yesterday, rousing some people from sleep but causing no injury or damage, officials said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said a movement in the Lubang fault set off the 4.4-magnitude quake at 1:17 a.m.

"I was half-asleep on my chair when I felt my chair slightly shaking," said Vilma Hernandez, a

researcher at the Phivolcs in Quezon City.

The quake measured Intensity 4 in Taguig City and Tanauan, Batangas; Intensity 3 in Manila and Lucban, Quezon; Intensity 2 in Quezon City and Taguig, Rizal; and Intensity 1 in Guinanguan, Quezon.

The country lies in the so-called Pacific "ring of fire" where earthquakes and volcanic activities are common.

Reports from AP and Cynthia Balana

erity was reported.

The quake was centered in the sea about 130 km south of Manila. It was also felt in the resort town of Puerto Galera on Mindoro Island and in some areas in the provinces of Quezon, Cavite and Rizal.

The quake's epicenter was placed at 20 km and 56 km west of Batangas City. No aftershocks were expected and no damage to prop-

erty was reported.

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The country lies in the so-called Pacific "ring of fire" where earthquakes and volcanic activities are common.

Reports from AP and Cynthia Balana

According to him, he submitted a full report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, including recommendations for recovering wealth allegedly plundered by Marcos during his 20 years in power.

"In Switzerland, the two governments reaffirmed their cooperative efforts to pursue with deliberate speed the pending actions in both Switzerland and the Philippines involving Marcos' crooked assets that remain frozen and subject to court actions," Perez said.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government earlier said it would summon the Araneta couple for questioning.

Perez said the government was also studying the "viability of obtaining accounting and disclosure orders" for the couple.

The government claims that Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989, had plundered state coffers during his rule and that his family and heirs have stashed more funds abroad although it has yet to prove the claim.

In the early 1990s, the government recovered about \$340 million from Swiss accounts. The money is now held in escrow at the Philippine National Bank where, with interest, it has now grown to \$642 million, pending the resolution of legal cases concerning its ownership.

Pamalakaya spokesperson Nelly Serrano said the Swiss government violated the sovereign rights of the Filipino people when it allowed the Marcoses to transfer their ill-gotten deposits to other banks in Europe.

"We urge the Macapagal administration to exercise the right of a sovereign state against another state which coddled the Marcoses and their ill-gotten billions," he said.

David Chaikin, a money laundering expert and a former senior fraud officer for the Australian government, said the UBS kept and maintained the Irene

Markos-Arana account amounting to \$13.2 billion.

Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who has been deputized by the justice department to help track down the Marcos deposits abroad, has expressed fears that the UBS deposits may have already been transferred to another European bank.

"The Swiss government owes the Filipino people a multitude of explanations. It is a national slur fired in indiscriminate proportions against the Filipino people," Serrano said.

Serrano also called on the government to immediately file plunder and criminal charges against the Araneta couple.

"It is time to end the Marcoses' three decades of revelry and merry-making. They must face their destiny in courts and in jails," he said.

Earlier, militants asked the Macapagal administration to inhibit the PCGG, the agency tasked with going after the Marcos ill-gotten wealth, from going after the Marcoses' stash abroad.

The group lamented that the government had been wasting millions in "taxpayers' money" in paying the salaries and benefits of PCGG officials who they said have produced nothing but "timely reports and jurassic updates."

"What we need are patriotic, competent and dedicated people who will work in the best interest of more than 70 million Filipinos, not an exclusive club for treasure-hunters and pleasure-seekers," Pamalakaya said.

The militants may yet get what they want. Sen. Sergio

Osmena has filed a bill seeking to abolish the PCGG and transfer its powers to the justice department. *AFP with a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

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New storm spotted east of Cagayan as 'Feria' death toll hits 128

ANOTHER potentially destructive storm is threatening the country as authorities placed the final death toll from last week's typhoon "Feria" at 128.

Tropical depression "Gorio" with winds of up to 55 km per hour was spotted 480 km east southeast of Aparri, Cagayan, at 10 a.m. yesterday morning and was moving north-

west at 15 kph toward Batanes, a weather bureau advisory said.

Gorio has drifted northward, threatening the extreme north of Luzon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 is in effect over the Batanes group, Cagayan, including the Calayan is-

lands, Isabela and Apayao provinces. These areas will have rains and winds of up to 55 kph, the weather bureau said.

Coastal waters will be moderate to rough.

Gorio is expected to induce monsoon rains over the western and southern sections of Luzon and western Visayas.

Last week, Feria, one

of the most powerful storms to hit the Philippines in years, battered the rice and corn-growing regions of Luzon with winds gusting up to 170 km.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said 128 people were killed as a result of the storm, many through landslides or electrocutions. Nearly 50 people are still missing

and 157 others were hurt. Reyes said in a radio interview that the typhoon affected nearly a million people—including nearly 12,000 people who were forced to flee their homes.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council estimated damage to infrastructure and agriculture at P1.59 billion.

Agriculture Secretary

Leonardo Montemayor said his department planned to distribute seeds to corn and vegetable farmers in Luzon so that they can plant again.

The agriculture department also plans to sell unmilled rice to affected farmers at re-

duced terms.

The Department of Agriculture said it lost about 180,000 tons of corn in Cagayan and Isabela provinces because of the typhoon, a volume equivalent to nearly a quarter of the country's annual demand shortfall.

"Damage to corn was extensive because standing corn in the two provinces were mostly in their most vulnerable stages of reproduction and maturity," a department report said.

The department said rice crop was not as badly

affected as corn because most of these were in early stages of vegetation.

In Dagupan City, what officials were not able to do for years, typhoon "Feria" did in only a few hours.

Feria's angry winds wiped out hundreds of illegal fish pens dotting the Lingayen Gulf and the city's rivers that had been the headache of local government and fishery officials.

City Administrator Rafael Barnau said officials could not determine how much the operators of these illegal structures lost but said the typhoon destroyed about P60 million worth of fish stock in the city alone.

A one-hectare fish pen structure costs about P150,000, it was learned.

Records of the Lingayen Gulf Coastal Area Management Commission showed that 1,100 illegal fish pens were scheduled for demolition by the Inter Agency Task Force for Coastal Environment Protection before the May 14 elections. Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Cynthia D. Balana and Reuters

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Announcement

The Judicial and Bar Council announces the opening of the position of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE of the SUPREME COURT, which will be vacated by Justice Minerva Gonzaga Reyes on her compulsory retirement on 25 September 2001.

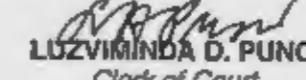
The application or recommendation for this position shall be filed not later than FRIDAY, 31 AUGUST 2001.

In case of recommendation, the same shall bear the conformity of the recommendee.

The application/recommendation must be addressed to:

The Secretariat
Judicial and Bar Council
Old Supreme Court Building
Padre Faura, Manila

9 January 2001.


LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF URBAN BANK, INC.

This Notice is being issued by the PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION ("PDIC") pursuant to Resolution No. 834, issued by the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on 26 April 2000, placing Urban Bank, Inc. (the "Corporation") under receivership and appointing the PDIC as receiver thereof.

Notice is hereby given that a special stockholders' meeting of the Corporation will be held on July 31, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. at the 36th Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Urban Avenue, Makati City. The agenda of the meeting is the approval of the proposed merger of the Corporation, Urbancorp Investments, Inc. and Export Industry Bank, with the Corporation as the surviving entity, the proposed merger being part of the rehabilitation plan for the Corporation. The election of directors of the Corporation will also take place.

The shares of the Corporation were placed under trading halt by the Philippine Stock Exchange effective 27 April 2000, and such trading halt continues to the present. Stockholders of record as of 31 July 2001 shall be entitled to vote. All proxies must be submitted for verification and record purposes not later than 5:00 p.m., five (5) banking days before the meeting, or on July 24, 2001 at the Office of the Deputy Receiver, 18th Floor, Urban Bank Plaza, Urban Avenue, Makati City.

Very Truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEON C. CABRADILLA
Deputy Receiver, UBI

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(Sgd.) NORBERTO C. NAZARENO
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Atong Ang plans to build mall in US

(From page A1)

Charlie "Atong" Ang is building a new life in America, planning to put up a mall in California, and is set on fighting any extradition attempt on "human rights" grounds.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Ang, whom government prosecutors have charged with plunder, told him this himself when the two men spoke at a party in Los Angeles on June 13.

"He doesn't want to return home because, according to him, his human rights will be violated," Pimentel told reporters at a news conference yesterday.

The businessman denied he was hiding from the law and was even "openly transacting business in California," according to the lawmaker, who had just returned from a trip abroad.

Ang also told Pimentel that Yolanda Ricasorte, an auditor who is also wanted on plunder charges, is also in California, and that the two co-accused keep in touch.

The government's former gaming consultant for Bingo-2 Ball operations "will fight any attempt to extradite him, because it looks like he is putting up a mall somewhere in California," Pimentel said, adding that he had forgotten the exact construction site.

The senator told the news conference that he gave a memo to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez recounting his meeting with Ang at the house of his friend, Dr. Yooyong Seriña.

At the press conference, Pimentel said that Ang came to see him at Seriña's birthday party upon learning that the Senate President was in Los Angeles.

In his memo to Perez, dated June 15 but submitted only yesterday, Pimentel noted that Ang had applied for an investor's visa to the United States and that he will fight his extradition "on the grounds of human rights."

Pimentel told reporters that Ang's nephew, a certain Nino Lim, was supposedly helping his uncle put up the mall.



ANG

Lim was with Ang at the birthday party, Pimentel added.

Both Ang and Ricasorte fled the country a few days after Estrada was ousted by People Power II.

Ang raised a dilemma he would have if he were to testify in the plunder cases against the former President, Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Ed Seriño, who are scheduled for arraignment today.

According to Ang, he cannot change the testimony he gave before the Senate blue ribbon committee "without losing credibility."

"He says if he were to change that testimony,

he has no documentary evidence to back up his new story," Pimentel said in his memo to Perez.

Did he lie?

Pimentel said Ang claimed that he had already told President Macapagal-Arroyo about his supposed predicament regarding the possibility of his testifying against Estrada.

Asked whether this meant that Ang had lied to senators during the inquiry into accusations of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that Estrada had accepted "jueteng" money and tax kickbacks, Pimentel said: "I'm not saying that. Maybe the implication is he'll be lying if he changes his testimony. That's the other side of the coin, isn't it?"

In his memo to Perez, Pimentel also said that Ang, among other things:

- Denied knowledge of where the money allegedly given by Singson to Estrada through Ang had come from.
- Didn't know that there is such a thing as

tobacco excise taxes or that any such tax money was due to the province of Ilocos Sur.

• Claimed that aside from the first release of the tobacco excise tax share of Ilocos Sur, there was another amount released involving more than P200 million that Singson allegedly used for his own purposes.

Unfair

Ang also branded as "unfair" Singson's exclusion from the list of people charged with the non-bailable crime of plunder and related offenses.

Pimentel told reporters that he wrote these things down so that the Department of Justice "can do what it wants to do."

He said that the justice department had cancelled Ang's passport, rendering the latter's US visa invalid and his stay in America illegal.

• So that means the next step is to extradite him," said Pimentel. But, the senator added, "that is precisely what (Ang) told me: He is going to fight the extradition."



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Vol. 16 No. 212
ISSN
0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Macandio Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2253 Makati Central Post Office, 1293 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8900 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4867; Circulation 627-33-02, 527-33-48, 528-01-43, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13; Fax 528-02-34.

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Feral 'Feria'

FERIA," a typhoon whose name is associated with festivity and fun, brought anything but these to the country last week. It sowed death and destruction in its path, killing 121 people, injuring 130 and leaving 44 missing. It displaced close to 900,000 people and destroyed more than P1 billion in public works, agricultural products and private property.

One of the hardest hit areas was Baguio City where water knee to waist deep flooded the central business district and residential areas. People never thought that Baguio, which lies 1,500 meters up in the mountains, would ever suffer a calamitous flood, but it did. "Feria" also wreaked havoc in Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley and Metro Manila.

What caused such a disastrous flood? Well, the usual factors have been identified: widespread and indiscriminate logging, the clogging of an antiquated drainage system and the dumping of garbage in waterways in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

Illegal and indiscriminate logging has long been pinpointed as one of the primary causes of flooding during the rainy season, but little has been done about the problem. Ted Bonipon of Tanggol Kalikasan said that "Feria" proved that a logging ban is no longer an issue. "If forests are denuded, flooding is certain. That is a scientific fact," he said.

A recent study showed that the Philippines is now one of the most severely deforested countries in the tropics, and that most of the deforestation has taken place in the last 40 years. Forest cover which was estimated at 21 million hectares or 70 percent of total land area in 1900 decreased to 22.2 percent in 1998.

A worst-case scenario projects a disastrous reduction of the forest cover to 6.6 percent in 2010; a best-case scenario sees it at 19 percent. The study, "Decline of the Philippine Forest," by the Environmental Science for Social Change Inc., says, "Judging by human behavior over the last 100 years, nothing less than a miracle will be needed to save the forest and to prevent this disaster from happening... Unless there is a radical change in attitude and behavior, the disaster will happen."

In the lowlands and central plains, one major factor that causes flooding is the antiquated drainage system. In places where the drainage has been improved, such as, for instance, in Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati, flash floods subside fast because the water is sucked quickly into the large-diameter drainage pipes.

Another factor that causes flooding in Metro Manila and other urban areas is the dumping and poor disposal of garbage. The government in some cities, like Makati, have taken steps to prevent the dumping of garbage in canals, *esteros* and other waterways by fencing them off, but some residents seem to have no regard for their community's safety: they cut holes in the wire fences and persist in dumping their garbage on the waterways. Some people will never learn.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been so incensed by this that she has ordered the Armed Forces to help the local governments clear the waterways of the metropolis of the tons of garbage. Of the 6,000 tons that the metropolis produces daily, about 35 percent ends up in sewers, rivers and creeks.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the local governments will have to devise a more efficient way of collecting garbage. At the same time, the barangays can help by conducting an information campaign among their members, impressing upon them that they can help prevent flooding in their communities if they will avoid throwing their garbage into rivers, *esteros* and other waterways.

To go back to illegal and indiscriminate logging: The growing population is one major factor in the denudation of the country's forests. More people need more land for the planting of commercial crops, for cattle raising and for the building of houses. But it cannot be denied that greed and the desire for quick money caused the quick destruction of the country's forests.

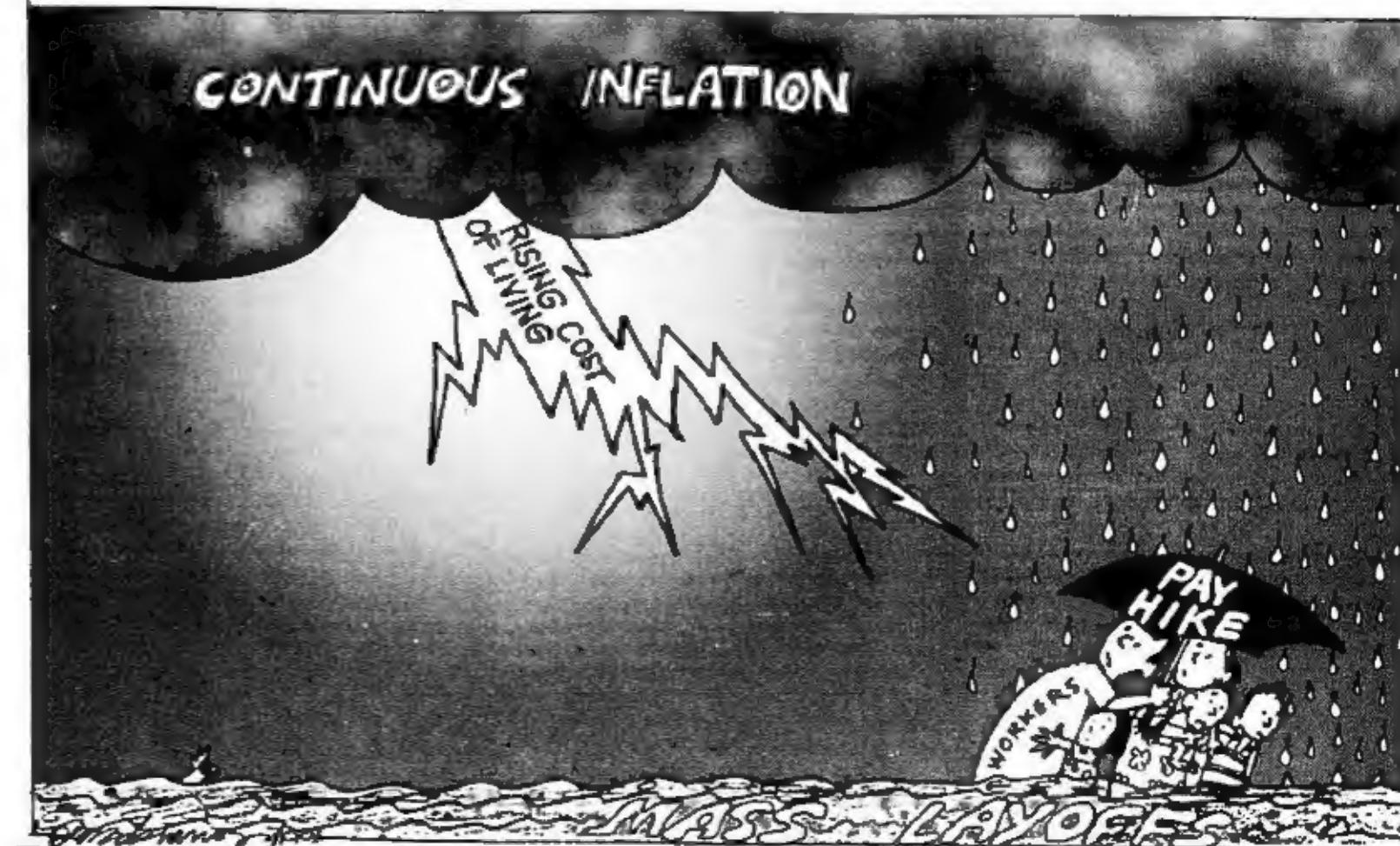
The ESSC study said: "It would be difficult to exaggerate the part played by elite control and corruption in explaining the destruction of the Philippine forest. Since the elite in effect participated in the government and the logging industry, this led to corrupt and inefficient regulation by the government of the logging process."

The ESSC is right: Unless there is a radical change in people's attitudes and behavior, disaster will hit the country. And this concerns not only deforestation but also the dumping of garbage in the cities. The elite will have to change their attitude and act as responsible stewards of the nation's forests. And the masses will have to realize that they will actually be saving themselves from floods if they dispose properly of their garbage.

OPINION

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CONTINUOUS INFLATION



Promote urban farming and create jobs

MALACAÑANG is dictating even on what should be the exclusive domain of artists. The Presidential Management Staff has ordered the postponement "until further orders" of the election of the chair and of the head of the Sub-Commission on Cultural Heritage of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Officers of the NCCA are not appointed by Malacañang; they are elected by the different artist and cultural groups. Malacañang has no business interfering with them. Art is supposed to be above politics.

PMS Secretary Vicki Gachitona called the NCCA as it was about to hold its election last July 5 and asked that it be postponed. Why? Because an ambitious politician, who has run and lost in one election after another, has run out of positions to run for and, for lack of anything else, wants the NCCA chairmanship for herself.

The politician is former Sen. Leticia Shahani; whose family, now that her brother Fidel V. Ramos is no longer president, has fallen on hard times. She can't seem to win any election. Even her son Ranjil lost his congressional seat in the last elections. So she has set her eyes on the chairmanship of the NCCA. Perhaps she doesn't realize it, but she would be better off gunning for one of the government financial institutions (GFI) or government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCC). The salary of NCCA chair is only P5,000 a month. The present chair of the NCCA is Jaime Laya against whom a demolition campaign is currently being waged.

The trouble with being NCCA chair is that you must be acceptable to the artistic community. And while Laya is acceptable, Shahani is not. The reason is that Shahani, not being an artist, forced her way into the NCCA. She became a member of the Library Committee although she is not a librarian. Her excuse: "I also use libraries."

Shahani was elevated to that committee's Executive Council and became its head on the same day. This is in violation of committee rules that have been in force since December 1997. According to Laya, the NCCA board discussed Shahani's status on two occasions and both times unanimously concluded that her election was irregu-

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

lar, being outside of the approved process.

The Library Committee is one of the six committees in the Sub-Commission on Cultural Heritage (SCH). The others are archives, art galleries, historical research, monuments and sites, and museums. The heads of these six committees elect the head of the SCH who, in turn, becomes eligible to be elected chair of the NCCA. All of them have finished their committee elections and were scheduled to elect the head of the SCH last July 5 when it was stopped by Malacañang. The reason: Ms. Shahani was not elected head of the Library Committee. It was the librarian of De La Salle University who was elected. That is why the group headed by Shahani is contesting the committee composition and its election results.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has asked businessmen to give jobs to the jobless. The trouble is, there are pitifully few jobs to give. Meanwhile, the families of these jobless grow hungry. What can we do?

The President can do two things. One is to do what her father, Diosdado Macapagal, did when he was president. The older Macapagal formed the Emergency Employment Administration, which was copied from the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt as the United States was coming out of the Depression. The EEA hired laborers to dig ditches and build roads just to give them jobs so that they will have food to eat and money to buy goods and help business to grow and boost the economy.

The administration of the younger Macapagal doesn't have the money to hire armies of laborers, but it can ask contractors of government infrastructure projects to use human labor instead of machines whenever

possible. In the first place, machines use up expensive fuel. So why not hire laborers to dig holes? Instead of making foreign-owned oil companies richer, why not use the money to hire Filipino workers?

The other thing that the President can do is promote urban farming. This involves planting vegetables in backyards and vacant lots. Typhoon Feria has shown us what happens when Baguio is cut off from the rest of Luzon: the vegetables from Trinidad Valley stop coming to the consumers in Central Luzon. Now the prices of vegetables in Metro Manila have gone through the ceiling. If Metro Manila grows their own vegetables, there would be no shortage.

What's more, urban farming would give jobless people in Metro Manila a means of livelihood. There are hectares and hectares of idle land in the metropolis that can be converted into vegetable gardens. One of them is a two-hectare parcel sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government located at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and C-5 in Pasig. It can be turned into a vegetable garden by street children. This is ideal for a vegetable garden because the land is flat and it has some unoccupied buildings where the produce can be processed and also serve as quarters for street children. An NGO, KaMMMPi Inc., has offered to teach and supervise the children.

The Bosoboso Valley in Antipolo has a climate similar to that of Trinidad Valley. It is planted to rice during the rainy season, but it is not cultivated during summer although it has a stream running across it. Like Trinidad Valley, it can also be a vegetable bowl. A farmer has already tried planting cabbage there. He produced so much that the markets of Metro Manila couldn't absorb all his harvest.

The settlers and squatters of Bosoboso Valley engage in *kainin* and cut the trees for charcoal. The beautiful forest of Benguet pines planted by the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation years ago are being cut down by squatters and landgrabbers. If they are given other means of livelihood, such as planting vegetables, they would stop cutting trees.

Three for the road

THERE'S THE RUB

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by stereo at full blast, and its occupants started spraying the store with bullets. He dove under his car, but instead of pulling out his gun, he pulled out his walkie-talkie. He started shouting, "P—g ino, binabara nito 'ko rito! Tifangan n'yo ko!"

He heard a voice on the other side, saying calmly: "That must be Robles."

One person's glory is another person's ignominy. One person's victory is another person's defeat.

There is a marker in Union Square that pays tribute to the American servicemen who sailed off more than a century ago to conquer new worlds. It extols in particular the victory of those Americans over the Spanish forces in the Philippine Islands under Commodore Dewey. The shrine that houses this marker is not accessible at this point; it is under construction. I made out the marker from a distance.

The other side of that marker of course is the blood that got to be spilled not between the Spaniards and the Americans—very little blood, if any, was spilled between them. The Spanish made it a point to surrender to Dewey, and not to Aguinaldo, after a mock battle in Manila Bay, the original acrobatic war—but between the Filipinos and Americans. Mainly the Filipinos: the Americans had superior arms and a more murderous intent.

Later, I would see even more clearly the other side of that marker. It was in the form of editorials and cartoons from Harper's Magazine in 1898 about the splendid little war in the Philippines. The cartoons in particular were revealing, depicting Filipinos as a tribal people with grass skirts and spears, whom civilization, or the White Man's burden, was turning into Negroes with top hats and walking sticks.

The letters of the American servicemen who won

the great victory at the other side of the world were also revealing. One soldier wrote to his family that he felt a rush each time he got one of the black men under his sights. Beat rabbit-hunting anytime, he said.

I remember that until the 1960s, when Teodoro Agoncillo and Renato Constantino came along, we pretty much took that version of how America came to the Philippines ourselves. Either that, or we buried the American Occupation deep within the recesses of our collective brain, content to let it pass as a minor footnote to history, one of those unpleasant things we were well advised not to dwell on.

I thought of all the other markers in America. The ones that praised the courage of the Americans who died in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, and won a great victory for their nation, however you defined victory. I wondered what lay at their other side.

Strange things, markers.

While checking in at the San Francisco airport, I gazed in awe at the gigantic *balikbayan* boxes that were being loaded on the carousel, and wondered how our plane could possibly lift off. PAL must hold the Guinness record for carrying the heaviest load each flight. I suddenly understood why the airline requires passengers to check in three hours before flight time. Other airlines require only two hours or even one hour. Checking in is an elaborate process of haggling, with the overloaded passenger always losing.

For some reason, every passenger thinks he or she is the exception. Surely, they say, a few more kilos cannot matter, forgetting, or unmindful of the, fact that a collective few more kilos come up to a lot of kilos. One ground crew person in exasperation always says, "baka kung ano ang mangyari."

Later, I heard the passenger complaining to another passenger: "Sobra naman sila, they are too strict here," to the vigorous nods of the other passenger. I thought to myself, it's the story of our lives. Obviously, it does not occur to us that if a plane crashes, there will be no exceptions. Obviously, it does not occur to us that if a plane crashes, there will be no making *paktusa* with God or the devil.

Father Honti should be named National Artist

SOME years back, this column already endorsed the elevation of Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, S.J., to National Artist. After hearing the concert, "Panangutan: A Lifetime of Music & Love," featuring songs in Filipino that Father Hontiveros composed over a period of 30 years, at the UP Main Theater last weekend, I would like to repeat that endorsement to the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and to President Macapagal herself. Few deserve to be named National Artist more than "Father Honti," as he is known to all his friends. He ought to be declared a National Artist for liturgical music, or if such a category is not available, then it should be created just for him.

If the qualification for a National Artist is one who has influenced the Filipinos in a profoundly pervasive and lasting way, then Father Honti is more than eminently qualified. As John Cardinal Sin put it, Father Honti "dedicated his life to creating some of the most beautiful and memorable liturgical hymns for the Filipino Church. Who among us, for example, has not heard or sung 'Panangutan' or his version of 'Ama Namin' and 'Papuri sa Diyos.' It is difficult to imagine our Masses without the familiar songs of Father Honti—songs that indeed have become the soundtrack of our lives."

What Mass is truly complete without one of his best known songs, which is also among his first works—"Luwalhati sa Diyos," also known as the "The Gloria?" His "Ama Namin" became one of the battle hymns of the Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986, helping to stop those tanks as the people did a *kapit biktig*.

As the concert literature pointed out, Father Honti's songs have resounded louder than his name. They have filled up the cathedrals as well as the churches in various municipalities and the tiny *kapilya* in the remotest barrios all over the Philippines. And they have also resounded in foreign lands, brought by overseas contract workers to Hong Kong, Taipei and Europe, as well as by professionals in the United States. Neighboring countries have resonated to his songs, such as those translated to Bahasa Indonesia and recently Mandarin.

If the criterion for the selection of National Artist is someone who best mirrors the Filipino soul and captures the Pinoy genius, in much the same

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



way that NVM Gonzales, National Artist for Literature, captured the soul of the rural Philippines in his stories about Mindoro, then Father Honti is more than qualified. It is interesting to know that "Panangutan" was written for a nun who was about to leave for a foreign mission; she chose the lines from St. Paul, "No One Lives for Himself Alone," as the theme of the invitation to the mission-sendoff. Few also know that Father Honti's "Ang Mabuting Pastor" was inspired by the hermit of two Good Shepherd sisters who gave up their places on a crowded lifeline for other passengers during the *Davao* sea tragedy.

If the criterion is the Filipino who best inspires other Filipinos to follow in his footsteps, in creative efforts in a given genre, Father Honti also qualifies, for he has inspired a whole generation of younger priest-composers to write Mass songs for the people. Among the second-generation songwriters are Nemesio Que, Danny Isidro and Fruto Ramirez.

Perhaps best known among the present crop of songwriters whom Father Honti inspired in a very direct way is a young Jesuit named Fr. Manolo Francisco. Francisco had just begun studying at the Ateneo de Manila when the first wave of Father Honti's songs was introduced in their school Masses. Manolo grew up with those songs. He wrote his first religious song in first year high school as an entry to a songwriting competition in 1979. The lyrics for that song, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan," based on Isaiah 49, were the result of the collaboration of an entire class under the famed Prof. Onofre Pagsanghan, with Manolo composing the melody. That song not only won the competition but also quickly became a classic. First recorded by singer Basil Valdez, "Hindi Kita Malilimutan" was for both singer and composer six Cecil Awards from the local music industry.

The phenomenal success of that song prompted Manolo to write contemporary liturgical and inspirational songs. Over the last 20 years, he has com-

posed over 150 songs, many of which, such as "Tanging Yaman," "Sa 'Yo Lamang," "Take and Receive" and "In Hina Alone," are being sung all over the country ("Tanging Yaman" became the theme of a multi-award-winning movie of the same title). In recognition of his efforts and achievements, Father Mimolding was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men.

When Father Honti first wrote his liturgical hymn in the 1960s, it was said that all he wanted to do was to come up with songs in the native languages that people could easily learn and sing at worship—songs which spoke of the people's simple and childlike yearnings for and aspirations toward God. He was born in Capiz, but he wrote his songs in Tagalog, the base of Filipino. Father Honti had no idea that in writing that first song and in teaching a Filipino Mass to San Jose seminarians, he was actually starting a whole tradition of religious and liturgical music in the Philippines.

To be sure, during the post-Vatican II years, Father Honti was not the only one who experimented with liturgical music in the vernacular. But as the concert literature put it, it was Father Honti who persisted in turning out song after song, each as popular as the previous one.

The late Jesuit historian, Fr. Horacio de la Costa, in his classic essay, once wrote that the Filipinos are poor but they are gifted with two jewels: their music and their faith. These two gifts find their expression in the Filipino's celebration of the Eucharist. Today, wherever Filipinos gather for worship, be it at the Manila Cathedral or a makeshift barrio chapel or a packed apartment in Spain or in Hong Kong, they join hearts and voices in songs of worship. Most of those songs were written by Father Honti, whose genius for capturing the Pinoy soul in liturgical music enabled those two jewels of the race—faith and music—to shine.

I hope the proper authorities will give Father Honti this honor of being declared National Artist very soon, while he is still around to appreciate it. Father Honti suffered a stroke some years back. He can now walk about, but his speech has been affected. After the concert, a beaming Father Honti was helped up the stage to acknowledge the tributes. He wanted very much to speak to the audience, but all he could say very clearly, was "Alleluia, Alleluia." Then he gave his priestly blessing.

More on language

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



need child to speak with an American twang."

ROCKY Ocampo reports a different experience. Though he grew up in Manila, his mother, who hails from Pangasinan, taught him her language and he ended up "having the best of both worlds," fluent in Tagalog among his friends and playmates, but able to talk to his mother in her first language.

He and his wife, both migrants to the United States, decided though to raise their children with English only. "However, they are telling us now that they want to learn Tagalog and they are envious of their cousins who are of the same age but were not born in the United States as they can speak Tagalog... My oldest also understands both Tagalog and Pangasinan although she cannot speak it. We are surprised sometimes when my wife and I are talking in Pangasinan in the front seats of the car and my daughter responds in English from the back seat." Rocky asks rhetorically: "Are we delighted by our children's American accent? Of course, we are. But we are also thankful that they are proud of their heritage and they love everything Filipino, which is more than we can say about some Filipino acquaintances here in San Francisco whose kids have the same background as our kids. Some of these kids are ashamed of their Filipino roots and even go to the extent of telling the bold-faced lie that they are from Hawaii or are a mixture of Chinese, Spanish, etc."

MY COUSIN, as well as Ocampo and another reader, Gras Reyes, also chided me for referring to the language of Pangasinan as "Pangalatok." The proper name for the language is Pangasinan, they said. "Pangalatok" is a derogatory term, I was told.

Well, I used to think so, too. But our former columnist, Larry Herrera, who himself traces his roots to Pangasinan, used "Pangalatok" constantly to refer to the language. I thus thought (mistakenly, it turns out) that "Pangalatok" had come to be generally accepted, in the same way that "Pinoy" has been adopted as a "nickname" for Filipinos.

Nice to know I can "blame" Cayang Larry for one other thing!

Historical attitudes

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



came had to return once their business was finished. The Audiencia did not make the royal order a priority with the excuse that there weren't enough ministers and too much work.

In 1773, 2,300 Chinese in Manila were deported, but there were negative consequences. Five years later, Gov. Basco y Vargas allowed a certain number in. In 1778 he decreed that the Christian Chinese could be readmitted but only up to 4,000. A preference was placed for laborers, weavers of silk and cotton, harvesters of silk, manufacturers of fine and ordinary linen and other occupations such as blacksmiths, iron mongers, miners, art teachers; those who knew to apply of varnish and lacquer. Workers in other fields were not allowed.

It turned out to be impossible to find 4,000 Chinese with such skills, and in order to fill the quota, non-Christians were allowed to enter. Basco suspended the entry when not even a thousand could be registered. Banned against them, the governor decreed that the Chinese were to devote themselves to agriculture for which they had little inclination.

Basco then ordered a silk market constructed within the walls called San Jose and had the Chinese living in the Parian transferred there. The king, however, vetoed the order and had the new silk market moved. The Chinese dispersed throughout the suburbs, but the Cabildo whose income came from the rents in the old Parian requested its reconstruction to house at least 1,000 Chinese, the number needed, according to them, to service and supply the capital. The king approved the request.

Besides deportations there were also massacres throughout the 17th century. As the century progressed, the uprisings became more severe and the repression more drastic.

It took longer for the wounds to heal. Three hundred years later the echoes reverberate.

It was repeated in 1730, but again it had no

AS THE 16TH century came to a close, three groups dominated the archipelago demographically: the Filipinos, who were the most numerous, the Chinese and the Spaniards. Of the three, the Spaniards were the smallest, being concentrated in Manila and the port of Cavite. In 1702 there were 400 Spaniards residents (with their families, they could have added up to some 2,000 individuals). A decade later priests and soldiers numbered 700 and 1,000, respectively. Spanish settlements outside Manila were concentrated in Cebu, Bicol, Cagayan Valley and most especially in the Ilocos. Very few settled in the Visayas.

The Chinese were always the most numerous foreigners and by the 18th century, they were viewed by the authorities as competing with the Filipinos in the interior commerce in the provinces, in agriculture and in the arts and crafts. A letter written in 1729 states: "...(The Chinese) own all the commercial stores, all the occupations and trades and all the foodstuffs and supplies from the meat to the fowls even the vegetables." (Apparently, certain attitudes had their origins centuries ago.)

According to the letter writer, by this time Filipinos were capable of providing the services traditionally rendered by the Sangleyes. Aiming to redirect the situation, Gov. Fernando Valdez Tamon ordered that all non-Christian Chinese living in the provinces transfer to the Parian or the *alcáceria* de Manila (a silk market in San Fernando, Binondo). Converted Chinese could live in Binondo or Sta. Cruz *extramuros* (outside the walls).

The Chinese countered that the inhabitants of Tondo, Cavite and other towns near Manila were laborers, fishermen or engaged in other occupations that could not be practiced if they lived secluded in the Parian, unlike bakers, weavers and brick-makers. The order of the governor was not carried out.

It was repeated in 1730, but again it had no

effect.

Four years later a royal decree dictated that the consequence of deporting the Chinese who now numbered some 14,000 be studied. The Audiencia (Supreme Court) was in favor, but nothing was done. A judge by the name of Calderon Enriquez advocated that the Chinese be concentrated first in the Parian and then deported, but the suggestion was not carried out until the arrival in 1755 of Gov. Manuel de Arandia. His priority was to deport all non-Christian Chinese. A month later, the order was carried out. Many converted so that they could remain in the country.

After the *alcáceria* was razed, the structure was rebuilt on the right bank of the Pasig near the wharf and under the guns of Fort Santiago. The building was finished in 1758, but Arandia died and new immigrants took the place of the residents who had been expelled. By 1762 there were 6,200 Chinese in Manila and the suburbs and many more in the provinces.

During the English occupation of Manila, the Chinese sided with the British. Thus when Seven Years War came to an end, the authorities reacted negatively and ordered them expelled. Christian bachelors included. Married men and their families were ordered sequestered in the Parian.

Since there were very few Chinese women in the country, some of the men married Filipinas and thus were able to stay. However residence permits were no longer issued and all traders who

came had to return once their business was finished. The Audiencia did not make the royal order a priority with the excuse that there weren't enough ministers and too much work.

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Dream house

MY siblings and I never liked our old ancestral house because it never looked as dignified as we imagined an ancestral house should be. Our house looks big from the outside, but in reality it doesn't have enough space to accommodate all the nine members of our family. There's no veranda to speak of, so you just go up a few steps to get into the living room, which must have lost its appeal forever. The small living space is divided by walls into box-like rooms. There are two bedrooms adjoining each other to the left of the main door. At the far end and to the right is the kitchen. The windows of each room have been almost completely eaten up by termites.

YOUNGBLOOD

Alexander Ther-en

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below.—Ed.

To be sure, during the post-Vatican II years, Father Honti was not the only one who experimented with liturgical music in the vernacular. But as the concert literature put it, it was Father Honti who persisted in turning out song after song, each as popular as the previous one.

The late Jesuit historian, Fr. Horacio de la Costa, in his classic essay, once wrote that the Filipinos are poor but they are gifted with two jewels: their music and their faith. These two gifts find their expression in the Filipino's celebration of the Eucharist. Today, wherever Filipinos gather for worship, be it at the Manila Cathedral or a makeshift barrio chapel or a packed apartment in Spain or in Hong Kong, they join hearts and voices in songs of worship. Most of those songs were written by Father Honti, whose genius for capturing the Pinoy soul in liturgical music enabled those two jewels of the race—faith and music—to shine.

I hope the proper authorities will give Father Honti this honor of being declared National Artist very soon, while he is still around to appreciate it. Father Honti suffered a stroke some years back. He can now walk about, but his speech has been affected. After the concert, a beaming Father Honti was helped up the stage to acknowledge the tributes. He wanted very much to speak to the audience, but all he could say very clearly, was "Alleluia, Alleluia." Then he gave his priestly blessing.

In the meantime, our house was getting older and turning to ruins. Some parts of the windowpane became rotten and others had already been replaced. The doors to the bedrooms were coming off their hinges. And there was nothing our parents could do to save the situation. Their salaries were hardly enough to cover the costs of our education, which was to them the better option.

There was no argument about that point, of course. They were right, and the rest of us just had to suffer in silence and continue dreaming of the dream house.

Then it was our oldest brother's turn to leave the house and look for fortune elsewhere. Still our dream house remained a dream. But we could live in it in our dreams, which was practically what we did all the time.

As the years passed, a really huge house was built directly across the street from our house. The huge white mansion of our new neighbors looked like the realization of our dream, but it wasn't ours.

Finally, it was my turn to seek my own fortune. I had finished college and I was determined to succeed, inspired by the idea of building something similar to the big house across the street. I was ready to go out into the real world and find my place in the sun.

But then something happened that led me to rethink my plans. On the eve of the new millennium, I saw the difference between dream and reality as I watched in horror while the big white mansion of our neighbor was reduced to ashes.

Talk going around town said the house was cursed. Some people said the tragedy was a form of punishment for its owners who were so arrogant, boastful and selfish that they never thought of paying homage to the patron saint of our barrio. Not even once, since they settled in our barrio, had they bothered to join the people in celebrating our fiesta. Perhaps they were never told that bad luck always struck those who spurned this old tradition of celebrating the fiesta. Their house was actually the third to go up in flames.

Actually, all these were mere speculations born out of superstition. It was faulty wiring that caused the fire that razed the mansion. The electrical circuits must have been overloaded on account of the numerous Christmas lights that they had installed in and out of the house and all over the yard. At daybreak when the fire was finally put out, all that was left of the place were some appliances that the family managed to bring out. Still those who live there could count themselves lucky that no one was killed or hurt in the fire.

I was there when it happened, and I witnessed the shock and the sadness in the faces of our once proud neighbors. It set me off to thinking about my sister and brother who were searching for fortune so that we could build our dream house.

From that day on, I no longer looked at our humble house with a measure of dismay. I have realized that what matters most isn't the shape of the house or the material out of which it's built but the shelter it provides especially on rainy days. I don't care anymore if our ancestral house is old for as long as we still have it. I feel secure under its roof and I will live in it while our dream house remains a dream.

Still my sister's declaration continues to ring in my ear: "I will build this house!" And I say yes, I will help build that house when the right time comes. In the meantime, our old ancestral house will be our home.

Alexander Ther-en, 21, has a bachelor's degree in mass communications major in journalism.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Bubbles

"The most that it will be able to do is create bubbles and suds just like what the Filipino people have been getting from this government."

—Kizk

Pinoy karma

THERE'S an amusing passage in Amy Tan's novel, "The Hundred Secret Senses," where an older Chinese woman claims many "yin people" (Westerners) want to be reborn as Chinese. The proof of this popularity as an option for rebirth, she says, is China's large population.

That passage about reincarnation came back to me as I watched a recent "I-witness" episode on Channel 7 about being Filipino, or rather about how tiring it had become to be Filipino. One part of the program featured interviews around the question, "Would you want to come back as a Filipino?" with people, more or less split between "yes" and "no."

If I may do a retake on Amy Tan, I could argue that up there somewhere, wherever it is that souls hang around waiting for their rebirth, there's probably a long queue of souls clamoring to be reborn as Filipinos, or coming back to live in the Philippines. My "proof"? Why, we're close to 80 million souls now, and we have one of the world's highest population growth rates.

The question, however, is this: What kind of karma do you need to come back as a Filipino? Few Filipinos believe in reincarnation and the Filipino concept of karma, which is supposed to be the driving force behind rebirths, is quite negative. Erap built up a little harem and in the end, was replaced as president by a woman. People say Erap got his karma and other philanderers are forewarned, "Sige, ma-karma ka, gaya ni Erap."

The Filipinized version of karma is quite punitive, a departure from the original concepts in Hinduism and Buddhism where karma refers to a cause-and-effect relationship. You sow what you reap; it's not considered a reward or a punishment by some supernatural being. If you're obsessed with sex then you could come back as a boar, literally the macho *bakato* you always wanted to be. You're not being punished by my supernatural being, it's your macho-obsessed stream of consciousness that brings you back, your soul catapulting into a boar so you can get all you want as a sexual gluton.

In principle then, reincarnation is a choice. You're here because you want to. That's why ideally, you're supposed to cultivate a detachment from the world so you don't ever have to come back at all, as a Filipino, Chinese, Indian, American or whatever.

How come you got reborn as a Filipino? Maybe because you were Filipino in a previous life, or lives, and enjoyed it, making you come back for more. Maybe all your *barkada* came back as Filipinos. Maybe you joined the long, rowdy queue of souls for the Philippines simply because it was long. (You probably jumped the queue as well, proving you were worthy to be reborn as a Filipino.)

Maybe you didn't really want to be Fili-

PINAY
KASIMichael L.
Tan

pino. Maybe you pooped out of the heavens and saw all these islands with beautiful beaches and didn't know a few thousand guys were also waiting to be reincarnated as Abu Sayyaf *banditos*, crazy about beach resorts.

Karma can be "good" or "bad." When your actions are motivated by generosity, kindness or wisdom, then you generate *pumma*, often loosely translated as merit but which really comes closer to a kind of auspicious purifying power that brings you more good in life, this one or future ones.

So, is being Filipino good or bad karma? I think it's all relative. I can imagine why some people think that being Pinoy is the result of terrible karma. But there are, too, Pinoys living in good times, in very good times, and if they believed in reincarnation, they'd strut around believing they had excellent karma.

If indeed you want to be reborn in a better life, then you're supposed to start generating good karma in this one. That means really being nice and not wishing that your enemies get reborn as fungi on someone's foot. (I picked that line from an Italian film.)

Good karma shouldn't be self-conscious. Whenever my friend Margie (yes, that Margie) does something good, she flutters her eyelashes and asks, "So do I get karmic points for being good?" "Nope," I reply, "it doesn't count when you're conscious about it, as in the way politicians try to get *pogi* points."

When you're Pinoy, this karma bit gets tricky because when we do things we tend to be conscious about what people think, or what we'll get out of it. Then, too, our Catholic upbringing reduces life to a never-ending cycle of rewards and punishments. We're good because we expect to get to heaven, or get a few years off from Purgatory, complete with a plaque of appreciation.

It's time to rethink karma. As the song goes (I think it was from "The Sound of Music"), if life's been looking up lately, maybe it's because you did something good as a kid, when you were still innocent and unaware of karma brownie points and photo opportunities for the press. And isn't there another song, too, about being good for goodness' sake? If we could just set our sights on doing that, maybe we just might produce better collective karma for the country. Then it'd be truly worthwhile coming back as a Filipino.

Comments to karma@pinoykasi.org

Frequent changes in Senate leadership

I WILL bet my last peso that whoever will be chosen Senate president will not last for 18 months.

Why? Because just like his predecessors, he will be an unwilling victim of the so-called "coup d'état" that has been "institutionalized," so to speak, in that august body. Everybody agrees to disagree with this "bad practice" because it is counter-productive and will further harm our already damaged economy.

In order to prevent this unnecessary coups, I would like to suggest that we adopt the practice in the United States where the vice president automatically becomes the presiding officer of the Senate. Of course, we cannot just do this unless we amend the Constitution.

Are you listening, future delegates to the Constitutional Convention?—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph. Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Court shielding people's tormentors

LETTERS

THE RECENT ruling of the Supreme Court barring the Ombudsman from looking into the bank records of suspects in graft cases only shows how hopeless our justice system is. The Court ruled that banks cannot be required to submit records of accounts of their depositors to assist the Ombudsman in its graft inquiry.

But how can the Ombudsman gather sufficient evidence for a graft case to prosper when our own Supreme Court, in the guise of protecting the privacy of every person, prevents it right from the first stage of its investigation from performing its job more effectively?

As an ordinary citizen, I can say that the Supreme Court is largely responsible for the rotten condition of our justice system. This is the same Supreme Court that absolved Imelda Marcos, the same court that delays the decision on other Marcos cases and the cases against Danding Cojuangco. It is also the same Court that prevents the people from watching the Estrada trial live on television, fearing that it might prejudice Estrada's rights. But how about the right of the ordinary Filipino people like me to be informed of what's happening in the Sandiganbayan?

Most of us have forgotten how the Supreme Court absolved Imelda due to technicalities just a few months after Estrada assumed the presidency.

Graft and corruption is the root of all

of what is happening in our country.

It all started with the Marcoses and lasted up to the time of Estrada. And now we have a Supreme Court that consistently protects the right of those people who caused our present misery.—RAFAEL E. FADERA, Nishi Heights, 102-2 Jojyodji Nishi Heights, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto, Japan

Northfield row enters healthier stage

I WISH to thank Rina Jimenez-David for giving a more balanced presentation of the issues in Paref-Northfield's transfer to its permanent site along Greenmeadows Avenue in Quezon City. (PDI, 7/4/01) I appreciate her suggestion for more trust and openness from both sides (proponents and opponents) and "to begin talking through venues other than streamers and lawsuits."

Some of us Northfield parents have been sorely tempted to put up streamers of our own, but we have been consistently reminded by the Northfield school administration to channel our energies into more sober dialogue. This perhaps is a clear manifestation of the inspiration from the life and teachings of Blessed Josemaria Escrivá de Balaguer that guides the spirit of the school.

Likewise, as Northfield parents, we have to be open to being reeducated into becoming what we want our children to be. If we wish to teach our children temperance and self-restraint, it has to start with our own personal struggles against tendencies to go into headlong collisions in solving our problems.

In the long run, cooler heads and a basic belief in the goodness of people prevail. This, we witnessed in our dialogue with David who was willing to listen to what we had to say.

We invite you to get to know more about Northfield and how it can truly be a venue for genuine people development (through its values education, home-school collaboration and scholarships for the poor) and thus, community development. And yes, all these "remain in the realm of plans and promises," as David mentioned, unless Northfield works hand in hand with the community it hopes to become part of.—CATHERIN LANZONA, 126 Katipunan Ave., White Plains, QC

CONTRARY to what Teresita S. Castillo, chief of staff of Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta, believes, I read in toto the provision of Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Oreta Bill which provides that "All functions, programs and activities of the DECS related to sports competition shall be transferred to the PSC. The programs for school sports...shall remain part of the basic education curriculum."

In attempting to refute our stand that the Oreta bill should be vetoed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Castillo failed to explain the difference between "(school) sports competition program" and "program for school sports." And I doubt if she can because these two are one and the same program.

The school sports competition program which the bill proposes to transfer from the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to the Philippine Sports Commission consists of: (a) school intramural sports, (b) school district meets, (c) school division meets, (d) regional meets, and (e) Palarong Pambansa. How can the PSC which does not have any grassroots organization and qualified personnel implement these components of schools sports competition program?

The motives of the proponents of Chapter 3, Section 9 of the Oreta bill are suspect. When the implementing or-

der of the bill is crafted, there is the possibility that the provision referring to "programs for school sports" which will remain with the DECS will include the back-breaking and thankless task of staging the school intramurals and the lower-level competitions leading to the national Palarong Pambansa. The Palarong Pambansa and international competitions, the cream of school sports program, will be given to the PSC.

This is exactly what transpired in the implementation of E.O. 81, issued by former President Joseph Estrada which even its proponents and supporters now want to be repealed.

In a Senate hearing attended in by members of the PSC board, Chair Carlos Tuason admitted that the PSC cannot manage the Palarong Pambansa because it already "has so many other problems." (The Senate record of the meeting will attest to this.) In that same meeting, the members of the board assured Senators Robert Jaworski and Franklin Drilon that they would submit a resolution to then President Estrada recommending the repeal of E.O. 81. Now comes the Oreta bill which will sustain the provisions of the order.—APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, QC

Hapao is part of Ifugao

THIS has reference to the article published in a supplement last June 18, "What we did in the last days of summer," by Charles Buban. Accompanying the article was a photo of the Hapao Rice Terraces with a caption that read, "The majestic Hapao Rice Terraces were among the oldest structures in Banaue..."

May I inform you that Hapao is no

longer a part of Banaue, as per Batas Pambansa Bilang 337 dated Jan. 19, 1983 which provided for the transfer of some barangays from Banaue to Ifugao. One of these barangays is Hapao, which now belongs to the municipality of Hungduan in the province of Ifugao.—ANDRES B. DUNUAN SR., mayor, Hungduan, Ifugao

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UN: Rich nations block technology flow to poor ones

MEXICO CITY—The world's richest countries are holding back scientific breakthroughs that could help eradicate hunger and stamp out poverty, a UN report says.

The 11th annual Human Development Report, scheduled to be released in Mexico City on Tuesday, argues that rich nations are hindering development and distribution of cutting-edge medicine by quibbling over prices, and says discussion of genetically engineered food is one-sided.

"The current debate in Europe and the United States over genetically modified crops mostly ignores the concerns of the developing world," the report says, adding that crops altered to produce higher yields could revolutionize farming in Africa, Latin America and across the underdeveloped world.

Critics view genetically modified foods as potential health hazards, arguing that not enough research has been done to determine whether they are safe. But the report maintains that genetically altered food could be an answer to feeding the world's hungry.

It also concludes that the developed world's push to block the use of controversial agricultural technology once widely available has hurt poor nations. It cites the campaign to ban the poisonous pesticide

DDT, which has left tropical countries battling a new breed of Malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

The report also faults wealthy nations for driving up international prices of prescription drugs by objecting to paying high prices.

"The citizens of rich countries must understand that it is only fair for people in developing countries to pay less for medicines and other products," the report says.

Mark Malloch Brown, head of the UN Development Fund, said in a recent interview that the report was "intended to challenge prevailing skepticism about technology."

Despite the debate raging over genetically modified food, the report urges governments to spend more on research and development of biotechnology.

The report ranked 174 countries based on income, education, life expectancy and health care, awarding Norway the world's highest standard of living.

"This is a recognition that our government combines a good welfare system for all people with a dynamic economy," Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg said.

"With a good welfare state you have people who are willing to take risks they can't take elsewhere," Stoltenberg said. "You have well-educated people with good health who are more productive and create a more dynamic economy."



CONDIT

Condit hit for withholding info on Levy disappearance

WASHINGTON—The US congressmen caught up in the case of a missing intern withheld crucial information from police and should be a suspect in her disappearance, a former federal prosecutor said on Sunday.

Police questioned Rep. Gary Condit, the 53-year-old Democrat from California, for a third time and said on Saturday he had answered all their questions and was not a suspect.

But Joseph DiGenova, a former US attorney for the District of Columbia, told the "Fox News Sunday" program he believed Condit should be a suspect because he did not disclose his intimate relationship with the intern.

DiGenova, a Republican who handled many high profile cases, including that of convicted Is-

raeli spy Jonathan Pollard, also said he was "absolutely stunned" that city police had not searched Condit's apartment.

"I cannot believe that that was not one of the first things that police did not ask him to do, especially in light of the fact that the congressman obviously lied to them in the first two interviews, and it wasn't until the third interview that he finally

told the truth and admitted that he had a relationship with this missing person," DiGenova said.

"He withheld that information from the police over a number of weeks. It's absolutely outrageous. It is indefensible," DiGenova said. ". . . He should be a suspect, under all the facts and circumstances," he added.

On CNN's "Late Edition," former US Attorney General Richard Thornburgh also asserted Condit had "not been completely forthcoming" until the third interview and said the delay likely damaged the investigation.

"That's two months later, all that time has been lost," said Thornburgh, who led the Justice Department during the first Bush administration.

Though police would not comment on the nature of the relationship between the congressman, who is married, and the 24-year-old intern, Levy's aunt said on Friday Condit was involved in a romantic relationship with Levy.

It was widely reported that Condit acknowledged to police investigators on Friday evening he had an affair with Levy that was continuing at the time she disappeared. But Abba Lowell, Condit's attorney, declined on Sunday to describe the relationship between the congressman and the intern but asserted Condit had been completely forthcoming to police.

The congressman has answered their questions each time to the best of his ability," Lowell told ABC's "This Week."

Lowell also said Condit has not been subpoenaed for anything by police nor had authorities asked to search his apartment.

"If they need something that we can help them with, we'll get it to them," he said. "But they haven't asked us for anything at this point."

Reuters

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AN APPEAL TO DOTC SECRETARY PANTALEON ALVAREZ

We are writing on behalf of the Filipino people, the local companies operating in the airport, and the airlines that fly to Manila and beg you to correct the dubious NAIA 3 contract to avert a national embarrassment before the eyes of the world.

We understand in 1997, as MIAA senior officer, you were involved in drafting the original concession agreement between PIATCO and the Philippine government. Over the years, your relationship with PIATCO's chief proponent has significantly deepened and this could make it very difficult for you to be objective in resolving the issues at hand.

Nevertheless, here are several preliminary facts that you should objectively consider:

1. The NAIA 3 contract is illegal. Since it was awarded through an unsolicited BOT, the government cannot guarantee the loans. But DOTC Undersecretary Alan Tan says the government has guaranteed PIATCO's loans and will have to assume all obligations to foreign lenders if PIATCO defaults in its payments.
2. The contract was changed three times by the Erap administration to favor PIATCO. This obviously makes a mockery out of our BOT law, the very law we use to lure foreign investors.
3. Your PIATCO friend has used this illegal contract to bully and intimidate foreign airlines into contracting with his own service company, a practice that goes against a level playing field which is essential in making our country conducive to business growth. This is also contrary to the spirit of transparency which your fellow cabinet members are trying to foster.
4. We have asked your good office several times for a copy of the complete set of contracts and their multiple amendments since these are public documents, but we have not received any response. Why? Are DOTC officials trying to hide something?

Mr. Secretary, your fellow cabinet members like Sec. Mar Roxas, Sec. Vince Perez, Sec. Lito Camacho, Vice President and Sec. Teofisto Guingona and Sec. Dick Gordon, not to mention our own President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, have made it their mission to enhance the reputation of the Philippines abroad. To attract foreign investments and get this country on its feet, they know we need to uphold the policy of transparency and an even playing field and show that our government officials are fair and just. We pray you will find the strength to follow their example.

Several billion dollar companies from Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, U.A.E., Malaysia, Germany and the United States, invested in the NAIA service companies in good faith. They are very upset with your friend's heavy-handed tactics and are now planning to take retaliatory action. Do you really want this matter to explode into an international crisis when you can easily prevent it by your objective leadership and fairness?

Mr. Secretary, we appeal to you to sit down with all affected parties and carve out an agreement that is fair to all Filipino taxpayers, the Philippine government, the foreign airlines and the companies who are direct competitors of your friend. We would welcome civic groups and the media to witness our dialogue. We don't want to make life difficult for anybody. We just want fairness and transparency.

It is time we learn from the destructive acts of the previous administration. For the sake of future generations, let us not squander the gains we made in EDSA II. You cannot allow your friend to sabotage efforts of the administration to achieve the international credibility which our country desperately needs. The eyes of the nation and the international community are on you, Mr. Secretary.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

LUSAKA, Zambia—More than 40 African heads of state gathered Sunday in Lusaka for a summit that will bury the Organization of African Unity and see the closer-knit African Union rise in its place.

About 800 ruling party activists greeted the arriving leaders at the airport outside Lusaka with singing and dancing as Zambian President Frederick Chiluba spent hours welcoming them to the three-day summit that begins Monday.

The African Union, first envisioned in 1999 by Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi, is to be loosely modeled on the European Union and expected to be stronger than the OAU ever was during its 38-year existence.

Its charter includes plans for an African central bank, a court of justice, a single currency and a parliament.

In a document released ahead of the summit, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim said the transformation gave hope for "the rise of a stronger and united continent."

"We have no other option but to remain together because separately none of us can make it, and individual linkages with the outside world are not viable," Salim said.

The OAU will undergo a yearlong transition before transforming itself in the union by next year's summit in South Africa.

The OAU, which served an important role in Africa, had to change, said its spokesperson, Desmond Orjiako. Its charter did not address important topics such as human rights, women's issues and globalization, he said.

"We don't see the OAU as a failure. As far as we are concerned the OAU was a huge success in its own right," he said.

Initially, the difference between the two organizations will mostly be a name change, said Jakkie Cilliers, director of the South Africa-based Institute for Security Studies who attended a high-level OAU meeting that directly preceded the summit. AP

Southeast Asia smoke haze back

JAKARTA—The dense smoke haze which blanketed parts of Indonesia and its neighbors for months three years ago is beginning to choke regional skies again, officials said yesterday.

The smoke has been returning to parts of Borneo and Sumatra as well as southern Thailand.

"Dense smoke haze has returned over Pontianak but only during the nights, while during daytime, visibility returns to normal," said the head of the West Kalimantan province's environmental impact assessment office, Idrin from the provincial capital of Pontianak.

"The dangerous level, with high toxic presence, is now between 10 p.m. until 3 a.m. but by around 7 a.m., the haze usually has thinned again," Idrin said.

"The haze appears to have been carried by winds from the south-southeast."

Muhammad Khaeron of the meteorology office in Pontianak said low visibility from the haze had already delayed the landing of one commercial flight from Jakarta by some 45 minutes early yesterday.

Khaeron said the haze in Pontianak, which had thickened in the past 10 days, was worse at night because of the presence of mist.

Haze has also returned to Riau, one of the Indonesian provinces on Sumatra island worst hit by forest and ground fires in 1997-98. AFP

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

Peace zone projects OK'd

DAVAO CITY—The Special Zone of Peace and Development Social Fund Executive Committee (Szopad) on Friday approved about P10.5 million worth of projects for war-affected areas in Mindanao. Among the projects approved are four Madrasah buildings, nine warehouses, 17 solar dryers, a barangay health station and a spring development system for the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao. Communities in Zamboanga and Cotabato cities are included as project beneficiaries. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army hunts NPAs

PINAN, Zamboanga del Norte—The military here is conducting counterinsurgency operations against the New People's Army, which has reportedly become more active in the province. Col. Estrelito Romero, commander of the Army's 10th Infantry Brigade, said rebel movements were monitored in Godod and Jose Dalman towns. Sources claimed that the rebels are trying to gain "bargaining power" in the peace talks. *Bert Laput, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 bolt jail

BULACAN, Bulacan—Four prisoners at the municipal jail here took advantage of a heavy downpour July 1 and escaped. Renato Concepcion, who is facing rape charges, was later arrested in his house in Barangay Bagumayan here. Police are hunting three other inmates identified as Lazaro Cordero and Marion Estafeta, both charged with robbery, and Virgilio de la Cruz, who was charged with theft. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Old man hunted

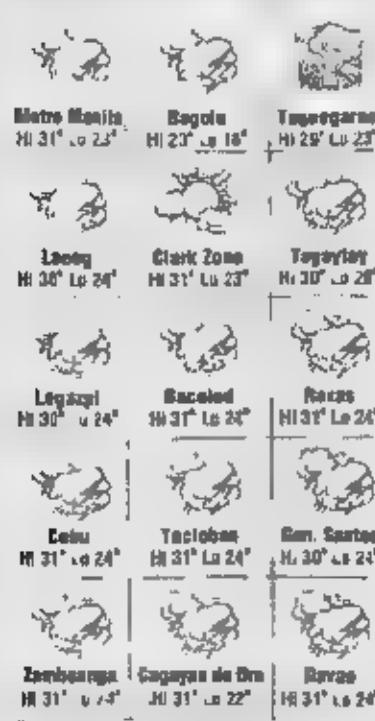
MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan—Police here are hunting an 80-year-old man who allegedly stabbed and killed his neighbor over a family dispute in Barangay Libtong here Monday. Francisco Pancho was charged with homicide and frustrated homicide along with his son-in-law, Manuel Postero. Si who is now detained at the municipal jail here. The suspect allegedly stabbed brothers Nestor and Joel Tumawang after they were attacked. Nestor died instantly while Joel is still critical. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Suspected reb slain

OBANDO, Bulacan—A suspected New People's Army collector and a fishpond operator were killed while three others were wounded in a shootout in Barangay San Pascual here Monday. Lando Marquez, 36, a suspected NPA collector, shot and killed Crisanto Marquez, 60, when he refused to pay a P2,000 monthly tax. The victim's children—Christopher Christian and Freddie—retaliated and gunned down Lando Marquez. Christopher was wounded while his two brothers fled. Two other children were hit by stray bullets. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over extreme Northern and Northeastern Luzon. *source: pagasa*



Compiled by Ray Layosa, PDI Researcher/TIMB

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Hospital fire kills 2 men, including surgery patient

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Two persons died early yesterday during an hour-long fire that gutted portions of the main building of the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) in Mandurriao, this city.

Raymundo Camacho, 34, died on the operating table while doctors failed to revive Ramon Ybiernas, 60, who suffered a heart attack when the fire broke out.

The deaths occurred at the height of the panic when flames engulfed the hospital's old library, its record section and its kidney unit where a dialysis machine was located.

Dr. Jose Mari Fermín, director of the 400-bed WVMC, said damage to hospital equipment was estimated at P9 million.

Chief Insp. Mumar Pama of the Mandurriao police station said his office received a fire alarm around 5:30 a.m. The fire was controlled an hour later.

An explosion preceded the fire that started at the hospital library on its mezzanine floor where old records and medical charts are being kept. The fire quickly spread to the medical records section, the kidney unit and a portion of Fermín's office below the old library.

After the fire alarm was sounded off, Fermín said the hospital's fire

brigade tried to fight the flames with fire extinguishers and was able to control the fire.

Camacho, a stabbing victim, was being operated on when the fire broke out. For fear of their lives and of the patient's, the surgical staff decided to evacuate the operating room on the second floor and move to the emergency room on the ground floor. Camacho died during the transfer.

Ybiernas was at the hospital to accompany his wife, Enriqueta, the former chief of clinic of the WVMC who was undergoing dialysis. Ybiernas was earlier seen assisting patients fleeing the fire. He later suffered a heart attack, probably af-

ter inhaling thick smoke that enveloped the hospital's main building, said Fermín.

Witnesses told radio reporters that hospital patients and their companions rushed to exit points when the fire broke out. Other people in the hospital were seen smashing glass jalopies and breaking doors to get out of the building.

In a rush of adrenaline, convalescent patients got up and ran outside, lugging their pillows and intravenous fluid bottles with them. Nurses and hospital personnel said they made sure that no patient was left in the rooms threatened by the fire.

Eight patients in the intensive care unit and four from the neo-natal in-

tensive care unit were moved to the emergency room during the fire. Incoming patients were turned away.

Firetrucks and ambulances from other hospitals rushed to the WVMC to await orders to move patients to safety.

As of 10 p.m. yesterday, electricity and telephone lines were restored at the hospital, except in the operating room. Patients returned to their rooms after hospital staff had disinfected the smoke-filled rooms.

The hospital was also checking if the heavily drenched dialysis machine, which was donated by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, is still working.

Army accused of rights abuse in Basilan

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Militant organizations here and in Zamboanga City said the military's operations against the Abu Sayyaf has resulted in violation of human rights of the civilians.

Even a religious leader connected with the Office of Muslim Affairs agreed that the government's bounty offer for the arrest of Abu Sayyaf leaders and members has triggered these violations.

"This (reward) system created more problems (because) it has made the lives of innocent Muslims miserable," Ustadz Sheik Miraj Juam, an OMA development officer, said.

Mujiv Hataman of the Kahapan Foundation—Moro Human Rights Center (Kahapan-MHRC) here said the bounty offered led some people to just point to civilians as Abu Sayyaf mem-

bers.

Another militant group said the anti Abu Sayyaf operations in Basilan drove residents into paroxysms, suspecting almost every individual as member of the bandit group.

"Distrust runs high among the victims. They feel suspicious of strangers, even relief workers and caregivers," Bayan Mindanao, an NGO working for the refugees, said in a statement.

It said this distrust also led to indiscriminate identification of civilians as members of the Abu Sayyaf.

Kahapan-MHRC said a total of eight persons were killed, nine persons arrested, seven missing and two others were beaten up either by the military or police since the start of anti-Abu Sayyaf operations on June 2.

Hataman said their records still did not include the arrest of suspected Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga City and

in Metro Manila.

"These harassment and violations started after the Lamitan siege, when the military (increased) its force to about eight battalions," Hataman said.

"As in Sulu, the military thinks that all Basilenos and Muslims in other parts of the country are all Abu Sayyaf," he added.

Kahapan-MHRC said since June 2, Nursallah Ibid of Barangay Calui Tuburan has been missing.

On June 5, Genies Marlon de la Cruz and Jul Pawaki of Lamitan disappeared while Kasim Ampoyong and three other companions failed to return home after they were invited by camouflage-wearing uniforms suspected to be military men on June 6.

Earlier, Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling Jr. denied reports that the military was randomly arresting suspected Abu Sayyaf members.

"The identities of the suspects are double-checked and the military observes due process to ensure that we will not violate the rights of any individual," Camiling said.

The militant groups said a total of eight persons were killed because of their alleged ties with the Abu Sayyaf.

On June 10, Hassan Liongan and Lukman Alih and three others were apprehended, blindfolded and allegedly shot dead by elements of the 37th Special Forces and nine members of the local militia in a checkpoint in Upper Maligue here.

The NGOs identified the military officers as Sergeant Martinez and a Corporal Luna of the 37th SF. Julie Alipala-Lisot with reports from Allan Naval and Ellen Red, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Robbers kill 3 in heist in Cabanatuan

CABANATUAN CITY—Three persons, one of them a businessman, were killed Sunday night when robbers broke into a four-story building in Barangay Zulueta here, police said.

Police identified the victim as businessman George Remperas, 35; Rachel Basalpa, 19; and Myrna Dig, 5. Basalpa and Dig were nieces of the live-in partner of Remperas. Remperas suffered 12 stab wounds in different parts of the body and contusions caused by blows from a hard object.

The two other victims were bludgeoned to death with the use of a wooden club, police said.

Supt. Laverne Manangbao, police chief here, said the police have two suspects in the killing. Both are reportedly helpers in the auto supply shop owned by Remperas.

One of them, identified as Angelito Graciano, 26, of Malitn, Davao del Sur, was arrested by the police. The other suspect, identified as Eduardo Poster, 20, of Sto. Maria, Davao del Sur, escaped.

A police report said the two suspects first struck Remperas with a wooden object while he was on the stairs going up to the third floor to retire for the night.

He was stabbed repeatedly with the use of a knife.

The suspects went to the second floor where they found the two other victims. The two were clubbed to death. The suspects then proceeded to the third floor where Myrna Bote, a live-in partner of Remperas, who was nursing her baby, was staying.

She reportedly pleaded for her life and that of her baby while telling the suspects that she did not have money in the house.

It was at this juncture that police operatives SPO3 Julio Menor and PO2 Abraham Rafanan Jr. arrived and calmed Graciano.

The policemen were reportedly alerted by a maid of Remperas, Anselmo Roque, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

AGNO, Pangasinan—Residents opposing a multi-billion-peso cement plant complex here have found allies in the Senate.

The Senate committee on environment and natural resources asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to cancel the environmental compliance certificate issued to the proposed Agno cement and quarry project.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Robert Jaworski, also asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to censure officials of the DENR's environmental management bureau (EMB) for "failing to discharge their role in this undertaking."

The EMB granted the ECC with 55 conditions to Taiwan-based Goldsun Corp., Nittoh Cement Corp. of Japan and GML Corp., a Filipino entity, the project proponents. The project includes a cement plant, a quarry project, a power plant and a pier.

When it lapsed on March 29, the ECC was extended to another two years by former acting Environment Secretary Joemari Gericho.

Last month, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez told Agno residents that he suspended the ECC pending a review of its extension.

In its report, the Senate committee said "mere compliance with legal pro-

cedural requirement does not take away the function of government officials to be more circumspect."

It added: "After all, they are given the delicate task of balancing the interests of various stakeholders guided by their mission-vision of preserving the last remaining natural sanctuaries of this country."

The committee also reminded the executive offices of the government that "the social acceptability of a project should be given paramount consideration, even as no endeavor is successful if many people will be marginalized and their health and future compromised."

This town facing the China Sea was chosen by the proponents for the cement plant complex project because it is rich in limestone, the main raw material for the manufacture of cement.

A pier would also be built here for the easy transport of cement outside of the country.

Residents, however, opposed the project, saying it was anti-people, anti-poor and destructive to the environment. They said the port and wastewater from the plant would endanger the environment while the town's rivers would be heavily silted by quarry operations.

The residents also said the plant would run counter with the town's land use plan and Pangasinan's physical framework plan, which declared the entire western Pangasinan as an eco-tour-

ism area.

The residents also raised these other issues.

Barangay Macaboboni, the project site, has been classified as an integrated forestry zone with certificates of stewardship contract (CSC) awarded to 107 residents.

The contracts were spuriously cancelled and the land was given to the project proponents.

Mining and forestry laws were violated to accommodate the project. For example, the DENR's mines and geosciences bureau issued a mining exploration permit to the GML, even if quarrying and mining activities are prohibited in areas declared as integrated social forestry zones. The permit covers 1,256 hectares.

An ECC was issued without archaeological clearance from the National Museum, even if Agno is rich in paleontological and archeological sites.

The proposed open-pit quarry would result in the possible loss of valuable topsoil, making vegetation nearly impossible.

Goldsun, however, countered that the 55 conditions of the ECC are reasons enough to admit that necessary environmental guarantees are safely instituted.

GMA favors Drilon as Senate President

(From page A1)

Senators Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan.

This bloc, bound by a common three-term House tenure and its PPC campaign in the May 14 elections, is backing up Arroyo for the top post.

All together, there are 12 senators in the PPC.

The diagram also shows the opposition with two blocs. The LDP made up of Senators Edgardo Angara, Teresa Oreta, Rodolfo Bizan, Blas Ople and Vicente Sotto.

The second bloc is the Puwers ng Masa of Senators Lolo Ejercito Estrada, Panfilo Lacson and Gregorio Honasan.

Together these two opposition blocs have eight members backing up Angara.

Finally there's another group in the diagram that's outside the PPC and the opposition—the so-called "independents," though one senator said the better term for them is "floating." These are Senators Ramon Revilla and his son-in-law, Robert Jaworski, John Osmena and Senator not-to-be-named Noi de Castro. This group is quiet about its preference.

Lakas objection

Lakas may not take to the presidential appointment of Drilon for the top post over its bet, Cayetano. Some PPC members also object to Drilon as he does not have any known ally in the PPC coalition. But that could be shot down by the argument that, to paraphrase former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, you have the President for an ally, you need no other ally.

There could also be objection from Sen. Serge Osmena, who is a keen rival of Drilon for the leadership of the Visayas. Serge is known to harbor ambitions to be Ms Macapagal's running mate in 2004. But his negative vote would be balanced by his cousin, John, who is a close associate of Drilon.

Swing votes

Where to get the rest of the votes, to bag at least a 13-vote simple majority? Flavier says they'd like 15 votes so that it would be more decisive.

The PPC group would likely turn to the bloc of "floating" senators for the extra votes to clinch the Senate race and here it's conceded that the most "sungkitable" (desirable) would be neophyte De Castro. Insiders opine that ABS-CBN won't allow Noli to wander off to the opposition.

A crucial mini-bloc that could be a swing vote is the father-in-law son-in-law tandem of Senators Revilla and Jaworski. Revilla is unabashed in his declaration to colleagues to let them know when they already got 11 votes, so that he and Jaworski could swing to them.

Also, Drilon has to show what Flavier termed "identifiable following."

Drilon resigned from the LAMP coalition of Estrada early in November, 2000 after the juicing scandal broke out and aligned himself with the anti-Estrada forces during the impeachment trial at Edsa II. Though he ran and won under the PPC banner in the last elections, most of his former close associates in LAMP, such as Senators Oreta, John Osmena and Angara, are with the opposition.

At a recent meeting between Drilon and Villar, the latter asked the former, "Eh, sino ba ang data mo?" (Who's with you?)

There is a possibility that Angara could offer the eight votes of his bloc to Drilon if the former sees that bagging the Senate top post for himself would be hopeless. The problem with this scenario, however, is that Drilon would be turning his back on his current allies in the PPC.

Rumblings against Angara

Senator Ople was recently quoted as saying that "we are in the process of wrapping up the Senate presidency for Ed Angara." Ople hinted that the three or four extra votes Angara's group needs to clinch that post could be obtained in exchange for chairmanships of the most powerful committees.

The speculation is that he was referring to Pimentel, Cayetano and Drilon, who, he opined, would end up with the minority if they don't join with the Angara group.

But there are rumblings of discontent against Angara from within the opposition itself.

Former Ambassador and NPC stalwart Ernesto Maceda was quoted as saying that the eight opposition senators may not be sold for Angara, as some do not like the way former President Joseph Estrada's executive secretary sought to make himself "look clean" ("nagmamalaki siya") at the expense of the deposed leader in the last days of his incumbency.

Get PPC act together

At the July 1 meeting at the Palace, President Macapagal was said to have advised the PPC aspirants to thresh out the problem among themselves. The aspirants are inclined to settle it among themselves without her intervention, if possible.

Mr. Macapagal's principal concern is said to be the preservation of the PPC, following its near-dissolution in the House after the PPC contenders couldn't reach agreement on the speakership issue. This forced frontrunner Joe de Venecia, to recruit the 52-member Nationalist People's Coalition into his column to ensure that he gets the numbers.

Since the bottom line for PPC is to secure the Senate presidency from the opposition, its concern right now is to ensure that no PPC member breaches the ranks. Preserve the PPC unity and "purity" is the battlecry.

Guingona formula

To ensure unity and purity, the PPC aspirants agreed in the presence of President Macapagal to adhere to the formula devised by Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Lakas party president.

The Guingona formula provides that whoever gets a simple majority of the 12 votes, which is seven votes, would automatically get the support of the rest within the administration bloc. He becomes the PPC candidate for the Senate presidency. Only after the 12 PPC votes are secured can this candidate begin negotiations with other groups or senators for their votes.

Under this formula groupings have become crucial, and the two blocs in the PPC which have specific votes have become the object of intense wooing and courting.

Villar had been saying, "We have a lot of suitors and our price is going up."

Cayetano and Arroyo, who are supported by their respective blocs, have been talking about clinching it already between them, so that with their eight votes they would only need five more votes to bag the top post. The problem is that they can't agree on who between them will get it.

Power-sharing

To facilitate things, there is a proposal for the two contenders for "power-sharing"—one and a half years each until the 2004 elections.

Cayetano wants to take the first half right away, on the argument that he would need time to prepare for reelection in 2004, so he better be Senate president now. But Arroyo wants the post now, and has proposed that he takes it for only one year and Cayetano gets the last two years.

Cayetano, however, is hampered by what colleagues term a "personality problem." On the other hand, Arroyo, who enjoys broad support from the civil society groups, could be regarded as a trifle too independent-minded by President Macapagal.

Compromise

Pimentel is being talked about as a compromise candidate if President Macapagal is not too enthusiastic to have Drilon bag the top post, given his 2004 presidential ambitions. Pimentel has presidential ambitions too, but it has noted that by 2004, younger candidates would edge him out, so he could appear hornless to Malacanang at the moment.

Another compromise candidate could be Flavier, the only true Lakas candidate among the PPC win-

ners, and also the most senior. Flavier parried talk about his being a "dark horse" by saying he's "maputi" (fair).

2nd balloting

What could happen in the Senate race is that contestants could stick in the first balloting, but anything could happen in a second balloting, particularly if it's a secret balloting, as some are advocating. Flavier said he has told his Lakas party mates to go for Cayetano, but he appears to have left open his choice for the second balloting.

Fluid, hazy

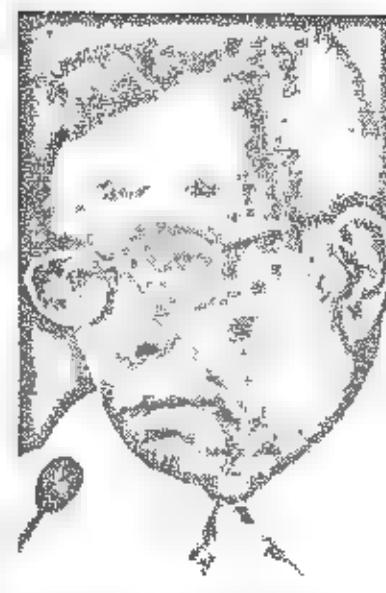
Because of the blocs, Drilon pointed out last week that no one of the contenders, including himself, can claim to have even the minimum winning number of 13 votes. "Anyone who claims he has the votes is lying," Drilon stressed.

The senators could eventually cross coalition lines in the final voting for the Senate presidency. But at the moment what is evident is that the balance of power between the two coalition groups is almost even.

Senator Flavier admitted that each coalition has problems. It's still fluid and hazy in the PPC, Flavier



ANGARA: Lone opposition contender.



PIMENTEL: Compromise candidate if PPC is not united.

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Abu Sayyaf chief of staff captured

(From page A1)

His group is said to have pulled off the May 22 attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal Island, Davao del Norte.

In Malacanang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said Global's capture was the result of a combined operation of the Armed Forces, the Philippine National Police and the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica).

"We see it as another indication that the Abu Sayyaf network is gradually but surely being dismantled," Roberto Tiglao said in a news conference. "We're turning the corner now in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf."

PNP officers were reportedly concerned about the credit for Global's capture, and not the P1-million reward.

Col. Pedro Magsino, commander of the 601st Brigade, also aired remarks to that effect.

Tiglao also said authorities were deliberating on the issue of who should be rewarded.

"The priority is the civilian informant," he said.

Chief Supt. Manuel Raval of the Central Mindanao PNP command said Global and his men were arrested around 5 p.m. inside the Jaburani compound at Barangay Calumpang, where they were attending a prayer session.

The three others arrested were identified as Hink Sabdani alias Abujer Hajar, Javier Sampaz alias Abu Khan Kahir, and Sulmar Sali alias Toto.

They carry a bounty of P1 million each.

The identities of the four arrested suspects matched the file photographs of wanted ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group) members that we have in our possession," Raval said.

He said the raiding team, composed of local policemen and members of the 601st Army Brigade, confiscated a number of Armalite bullets and cell phone casings at the Jaburani compound.

Sabdani, Sampaz and Sali were presented at a press conference at Camp Fennin G. Lira Jr yesterday morning.

Major Pedro Acharon said Global was to be presented to the Presidencia and had to be immediately flown to Malacanang.

Escorted by military men, a hand-

cuffed Global arrived in Manila just 11 a.m. aboard a Philippine Airlines commercial flight. He was immediately taken in a van to Fort Bonifacio.

Tip from an asset

At the press conference in Fort Bonifacio, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos said it was actually a Nica "asset" who tipped off authorities on Global's presence in General Santos.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr said the military expected more Abu Sayyaf leaders to fall in the next few weeks.

"There are more to come," Mabanta said.

In General Santos, Magsino said Global's group had been under surveillance for weeks.

He said the military had received an intelligence report that the group was hiding in the compound but that efforts had to be made to ensure it was indeed Global and not anyone else.

Raval said the bandits fled to General Santos after the attack on Petal Farm, which the military initially blamed on sea pirates.

The bandits were supposedly targeting some of the foreigners vacationing

at the resort, but security guards put up a fight.

At least three people were killed in the attack.

Raval said the bandits wanted to use General Santos as jump-off point on their way back to Jolo.

He said six of Global's men had already left for Jolo and that only six, including Global, had been left in the city.

A hunt is ongoing for the remaining members of Global's group, Raval said.

Bounty

The bounty for the capture of Global and his men comes up to P8 million.

Raval said, "Higher authorities were still evaluating" who would receive the reward.

Magsino, ground commander of the joint military and police force that went after Global's group in the towns of Malita, Don Marcelino and Jose Abad Santos in Davao del Sur and in Sarangani province, said he merely performed his job and was not thinking about the promised cash.

"I was more concerned about how to neutralize (the bandits)," he said.

Two of Magsino's men died in the

initial operations.

At Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, APP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedes Villanueva pointed out that the military had been producing results despite criticisms of the pace of its operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

"(The bandits) are being captured and neutralized, in one way or another. Our operating elements work well . . . while it may be true that we are not going as fast as the public demands," Villanueva told reporters.

"In fact, your Army and Navy are disregarding comfort and face daily risk in their determined effort to capture the Abu Sayyaf bandits. It is our goal to see to it that the Abu Sayyaf is terminated," he said.

Villanueva was guest at the turnover yesterday of the Philippine Military Academy command from Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr to Maj. Gen. Rufio de Veyra.

Peace of mind

Mayor Acharon said Global's capture would at least give General Santos residents peace of mind.

However, he said, the public should constantly be on alert for possible threats to peace and order in the city.

"Our 500 policemen can hardly cope with their job of securing the 45,000 households and more than 5,000 business establishments in the city. Our peace efforts would only bear fruit when all sectors in the community are helping each other," he said.

Acharon issued the appeal in the wake of the still unsolved bombing in the city at dawn Sunday, which injured 13 people.

He said the police and military were still determining whether Global's group had anything to do with the bombing.

But some witnesses told reporters that Global fit the description of one of those seen leaving the area a few minutes before the explosion occurred.

In Manila, Agence France Presse quoted AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Robot as saying that Global

could have been plotting to stage bombings in General Santos to divert military attention from Basilan Island, where another Abu Sayyaf faction is holding hostage 21 Americans and Filipinos.

The police and military said they had tightened security around South Cotabato, including General Santos, which is about four hours by speedboat from Basilan.

"There could be other Abu Sayyaf members in South Cotabato because they fled the Army offensive in Basilan," Robot said.

"We are now on red alert," added city police chief Senior Supt. Conrado Lasan. "We have intensified monitoring of suspicious people in the city."

No amnesty

In Cagayan de Oro City, Remedios Balbin, senior commissioner of the National Amnesty Commission, told the INQUIRER that Abu Sayyaf members involved in kidnappings for ransom were definitely out of the government's amnesty program.

Balbin made the statement after reporters pressed her on whether Abu Sayyaf leader Galib Andang alias Commander Robot would be granted amnesty upon his surrender.

Robot was earlier reported to have sent surrender feelers to former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singzon.

However, Balbin declined to give a categorical answer to the question of whether Abu Sayyaf members not involved in kidnappings could be pardoned.

She said the confusion on what the Abu Sayyaf was all about should be settled first.

"How did they come about? Who created the Abu Sayyaf?" she said.

The Abu Sayyaf claims to be fighting for a separate Islamic state. But Balbin pointed out that its reputation as a kidnap-for-ransom group was being this claim. With reports from Alan A. Naval and Ellen P. Real, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Desires Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgos in Manila; AFP

Low-profile . . .

(From page A1)

Arabian cameraman preserved on film their experience from beginning to end.

More importantly, it vividly demonstrated the leadership dynamics within the Sulu-based Abu Sayyaf.

The video initially showed Galib Andang alias Commander Robot talking with a German TV reporter.

The two appeared like old friends, smiling and laughing, as if sharing jokes. They first met just a day earlier, and even if they spoke in different languages—the foreigner in English, Andang in English-Filipino-Tausug—they seemed to understand each other.

Then one noticed some movement in the background, as other foreign journalists appeared to be walking in single file, apparently obeying unusual orders spoken by an unseen person.

The camera panned to Robot and the German. Robot was holding the arm of the foreigner, as if holding him back, but the other seemed to be insisting that he wanted to join the rest.

The expression on Robot's face turned serious. He whispered something to the German, but the latter pointed to himself and then to a direction off-camera, obviously where his colleagues were.

Then a voice was clearly heard shouting in Tausug. "Why? Let him come, let him come right now."

Andang reluctantly let go of the German's arm, and, looking relieved, the journalist eagerly went off to join the tail end of the line disappearing into the jungle, straight into captivity.

The voice that Robot was compelled to obey belonged to Global.

Intellectual

The soft-spoken Global maintained a low profile.

Knowledgeable in Islam and a wide reader, he is the acknowledged "intellectual" among the Abu Sayyaf leaders, impressing even foreign journalists with his articulateness and seeming sincerity in pursuing his "cause."

"Impassioned" was how a French radio correspondent described Global's explanation of his ideology. Only governance based on the Shari'ah, and a return to the strict moral precepts of Islam, would be workable for the Muslims.

His credibility among the Abu Sayyaf followers is apparently based on the simple fact that he lived what he preached. He adhered to a spartan lifestyle and spent his days according

to a rigid program of prayers, reflection and reading.

It is said that among the known Abu Sayyaf leaders, he is the only one who completed a college education, earning a degree in criminology from the Zamboanga A.B. Colleges.

In the TV footage of the press conference yesterday during which the military presented Global to the media, a close-up showed a round scar on his left hand, the stamp of membership in the Beta Sigma fraternity at the University of the Philippines.

Among his "brods" are former Flagship Projects Secretary Robert Avi Apado and retiree Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, both of whom figured prominently in the negotiations for the release of the stupid hostages.

During that months-long hostage crisis, Global and fellow Ibanan native Abu Pula Junaid fortified themselves in Samak in Tapião, near Bandang, Robot's territory.

But it was Robot or his emmances who made the trips to Samak, and not the other way around, for no major decision was made without Global's concurrence.

Abu Sayyaf followers related that whenever the leaders discussed certain issues, Global would sit quietly listening, and usually spoke only after everyone had exhausted his point.

When he did speak up, everyone listened, and almost always agreed with him.

It was Global who composed those statements to the media and letters to the negotiators, which were usually hand-written in a neat old-fashioned script.

The language was elegant, sometimes stilted, but always revealing an educated writer.

Unrecognizable

In yesterday's TV footage, Global was almost unrecognizable as he stood behind the row of ranking military officers.

He was handcuffed, bareheaded and wearing a striped polo shirt.

As strange as the handcuffs were the attire, Global's usual garb being the Arabian juba, a long-sleeved shirt and an Afghan robe's cap. Only the sparse goatee remained.

One wondered why he did not become a police officer instead, given his qualifications. Or maybe a local political leader, so he could help bring about the social reforms he envisioned.

If such questions about Global and other potential Muslim leaders can be answered, then perhaps we can begin to find answers to why the Abu Sayyaf came to be, and why it continues to exist.

revolutionary workers group, dismissed the specter of layoffs and closures raised by capitalism as "usual black propaganda" against a demand for a wage increase.

In a statement, Patricio Ramirez, nom de guerre of the PMP spokesman, called on the workers to consider revolution if the government could not grant a wage increase.

For its part, the Suluwan ng Pilipino (BMP) called on workers to transcend their political differences and stage an Edsa IV to gain concessions from the administration.

The BMP is willing to support the P125-wage demand by the KMU if they can solicit the endorsement of the TUCP for it, Victor Briz said. With reports from Christine Avendano in Manila and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Estrada arraigned today for plunder

(From page A1)

sonally see to it that it will happen," Desiderio said in an interview yesterday afternoon.

Estrada is also scheduled to be arraigned today on a lesser charge of illegally using an alias. He became the first Philippine president to face criminal trial when he was arraigned on a perjury charge on June 27 but he refused to enter a plea on the advice of his lawyers, prompting the Sandiganbayan to enter a plea of not guilty on his behalf.

Desiderio urged the disgraced leader to enter a plea in his plunder arraignment. "It is not important whether he will plead guilty or not. What is important is that he will enter a plea," Desiderio said.

Deluge of motions

Despite Estrada's pronouncements that he is willing to answer the accusations against him point by point, his battery of lawyers has so far filed 68 motions before the Sandiganbayan delaying his prosecution, Desiderio said.

Yesterday, the defense filed another motion to remind Estrada's third case—illegal use of alias—to the Office of the Ombudsman.

And Verzola and Estrada's lawyers would ask the Supreme Court today whether holding the plunder arraignment would be in violation of the normal 15 days given to appeal.

But Desiderio argued that the arraignment was long overdue since the law only allows for a maximum 16-day wait after a case is filed.

The court finally set the arraignment for May but it was rescheduled twice on the request of the defense.

No reason to be biased

Ruling on the motion to inhibit himself, Badoy took 20 pages to insist that "I had no reason to be biased against the accused."

Explaining his reasoning, Badoy cited a lack of stenographers adept in Filipino and the petitioners' failure to prove that they could not properly appreciate testimony delivered in English.

The third division also scrapped a prosecution motion asking the court proceedings be conducted in Filipino.

The court cited a lack of stenographers adept in Filipino and the petitioners' failure to prove that they could not properly appreciate testimony delivered in English.

During the arraignment, the court will read to the Estradas and Serapio the details of the plunder charges

and in another resolution, the court gave Jinggoy Estrada the go-ahead to schedule a cardiac examination at the Makati Medical Center not later than Wednesday. In turn, his doctors at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center were ordered to report the test results to the court by Friday.

Bomb searches

The same security arrangements employed during Estrada's arraignment will be employed today, but Sandiganbayan Sheriff Edri Uriela said there would be additional measures against bomb attacks.

"We will be employing the same security preparations we did during his first arraignment," PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said. "We are trying to preempt possible efforts by some bad elements to take advantage of the situation."

On June 27, up to 4,500 policemen were mobilized to secure Estrada's route from the military hospital to the court, to control demonstrators on the ground, and to guard Sandiganbayan's interior.

Uriela said the Sandiganbayan premises and nearby buildings would be searched for planted bombs, but assured that no immediate threats to Estrada and to the court have surfaced so far.

Police expected large demonstrations during the perjury arraignment, but these failed to materialize.

Plunder primer

The other accused in the plunder case—Charlie "Along" Ang, Yolanda Ricarote, Delia Rajas, Eleuterio Tan and Alma Alfaro—will not be arraigned since they are at large. (See cartoon story on Page A1.)

<p

Armstrong 49th in first stage

BOULOGNE SUR MER, France—Strong winds and gray skies are not what you expect in France in July. So Lance Armstrong huddled close to his fellow riders in yesterday's first stage of the 2001 Tour de France, and finished in 49th place. The two-time champion was somewhere in the middle of the pack when it sprinted to the finish line in this northeastern port city. Erik Zabel won the dash. AP

EMPTY BOAST**SPORTS**

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIT

GOLF: PGA Adval Western Open, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
 This is the PGA Tour at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
 TENNIS: Wimbledon Day 13—Highlights at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
 BASKETBALL: 2001 ABC Championship Cup, Preliminary Round at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Star Sports
 CYCLING: 2001 Tour De France Highlights Stage #2 at 1:30 p.m. (r) 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

No GMA for ralliers at Palace**Ivanisevic makes Wimby history; Williams pockets 2nd straight title**

LONDON—Goran Ivanisevic wrote a new page of Wimbledon history on Monday by becoming the first wildcard ever to lift a Grand Slam singles title, beating Australian third seed Pat Rafter 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 9-7.

The 29-year-old, who had virtually disappeared from view over the past two seasons after a miserable run of injury and loss of form, not only celebrated his first Grand Slam title at the 48th attempt but also vaulted back into the world top ten with his 22nd career title.

Just as importantly he snapped a dreadful run of bad luck here, having previously lost three finals at the All England Club in 1992, 1994 and 1998.

Ivanisevic, from Split, pocketed \$50,000 pounds (\$750,000) for his win with Rafter, losing his second successive final, picking up half that sum.

The only man to lose four men's Wimbledon finals without taking the crown was Australian Ken Rosewall - and Ivanisevic was determined not to join him.

His win made him only the second Croatian to win a Slam title following Iva Majoli at the 1997 women's French Open.

Meanwhile, Venus Williams won her second consecutive Wimbledon title Sunday by beating Belgian Justine Henin 6-1, 3-6, 6-0.

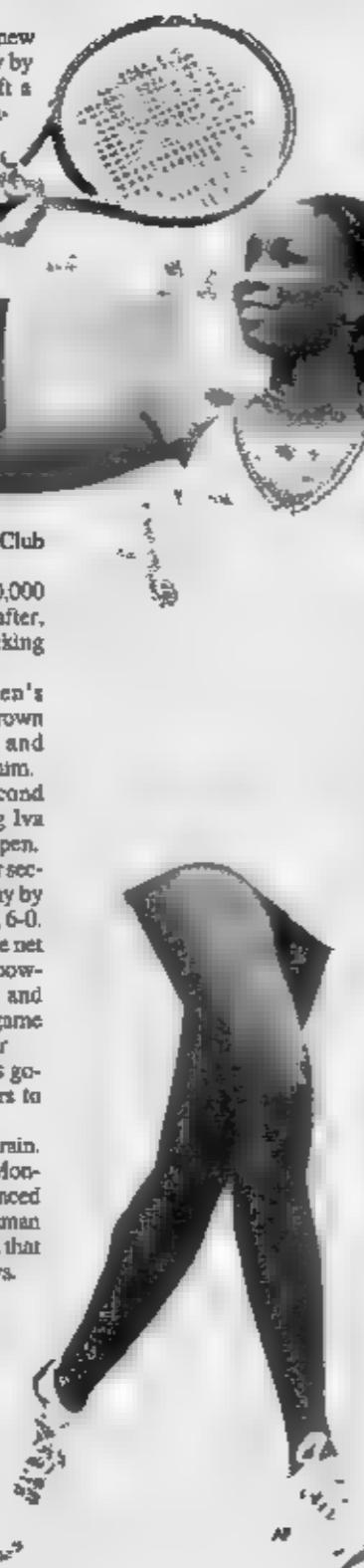
Crushing her serves and charging the net at every opportunity, Williams overpowered a smaller, less experienced foe and showed she's back at the top of her game after slumping the first half of this year.

"I love Wimbledon," she said. "It's going to be a great place for me for years to come."

Both finals were delayed one day by rain. Pat Rafter will play for the men's title Monday against Goran Ivanisevic, who advanced Sunday by beating Englishman Tim Henman 7-5, 6-7 (6), 0-6, 7-6 (5), 6-3 in a match that took three hours spread over three days.

Henman lost in the semifinals for the third time in four years, again ending his bid to become the first Englishman to play in the Wimbledon final since 1938. Disappointed Britons were left to applaud Williams, who was a bit subdued herself in victory.

When Williams won her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last year, she leaped giddily across the grass. This time she staged a more restrained celebration, befitting



WILLIAMS: Overpowering.

taking a player who has become accustomed to championships.

"I couldn't leap because it was raining a little bit, and I didn't want to fall," she joked to the crowd during the trophy ceremony.

A few drops of rain fell as the final game began, and Williams rushed to close out the win. On the first match point she smoked a service return that jammed Henin, who could only dribble a backhand to the net.

A smiling Williams waved and swung her fist at the crowd, then hopped happily beside her changeover chair. She's familiar with the routine: Since July 2000, Williams has won three major singles titles and two Olympic gold medals.

For the latest triumph, Williams received \$647,500. Henin earned \$323,750.

Williams said the one-day wait because of rain didn't bother her, but her father and coach, Richard, suggested otherwise.

After six months of mostly disappointing results, she has reason to smile.

In January, Williams endured the most lopsided loss of her career, 6-1, 6-1 to Martina Hingis in the Australian Open quarterfinals. Then she was upset last month by Barbara Schett in the opening round at the French Open.

But Wimbledon rejuvenated her game, just like a year ago, when the tournament marked her start of a 35-match winning streak. AP, AFP

Adaza gains finals

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY Patricia Adaza of Mati, Davao Oriental, overcame another damp day in dumping Andril Salomon, 8-2, before beating Irene Serito, 8-6, to barge into the final of two divisions in the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 here Sunday at the Nazareth Tennis Club.

Adaza meets Jasper Cabisong, who edged Noelle Pacana, 8-7, for the girls' 16-under class jewel, before tangling anew with Serito, an 8-6 victor past Pacana for the girls' 14-under division title. Ed Angelo Diez of Davao arranged a showdown with Duma Ele Boloto of Marawi, who tripped James Pang, 8-6, in the boys' 14-under bracket then guns for a double against Alexia La Paz, an 8-3 winner over Raff Laput, in the boys' 16-under category.

Other finalists include Francis Casey Alcantara against El Santo Santos in the 10-under event and with Marvin Serito in the boys' 12-under class; Jaylene Tam with Cabisong in the junior women's 21-under group; and Andy Autentico tangling with Ricardo Soien in the junior men's 21-under division.

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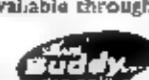
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**Kidnapped trader,
employee rescued**

A18

METRO

LOUIE G. CAMINO, Editor

Memorial park killer's death sentence reduced to 14 years

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

THE SUPREME Court yesterday downgraded from death to a maximum of 14 years imprisonment the punishment

imposed on a man who shot dead a pregnant woman at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Oct. 31, 1998.

The Supreme Court noted that the shooting by Inocencio Gonzalez Jr. was

accidental and devoid of treachery as prosecutors insisted, and ruled that it was homicide and not murder.

Following an automatic review of the decision of the Marikina Regional Trial

Court which sentenced Gonzalez to death, Supreme Court justices voted 11-4 to give him a lighter punishment, pointing out that Gonzalez was provoked into using his gun.

Those who dissented with the downgrading of the penalty were Associate Justices Reynato Puno, Santiago Kapunan, Artemio Pangampan and Bernardo Pardo.

The Marikina RTC earlier ruled that Gonzalez should die by lethal injection for killing Feliber Andres, a registered nurse who was eight months pregnant with her second child.

Gonzalez was also found guilty of two counts of frustrated murder for wounding Andres' son Kenneth and nephew Kevin.

MEMORIAL/A18



INOCENCIO Gonzalez (far right) shot to death pregnant woman Feliber Andres and wounded her son John Kenneth (above right comforted by his father Noel) and nephew Kevin Vadez (with his mother). All are file photos. EVAN HERNANDEZ



Gay cadets join drive vs ROTC

BY JEROME ANING

A GROUP of gay students yesterday joined about 100 militant college students who staged another rally in Manila's university belt to demand that the Reservist Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program be made optional.

The Society for Homosexual Emergence (SHE) claimed that homosexual cadets have suffered dis-

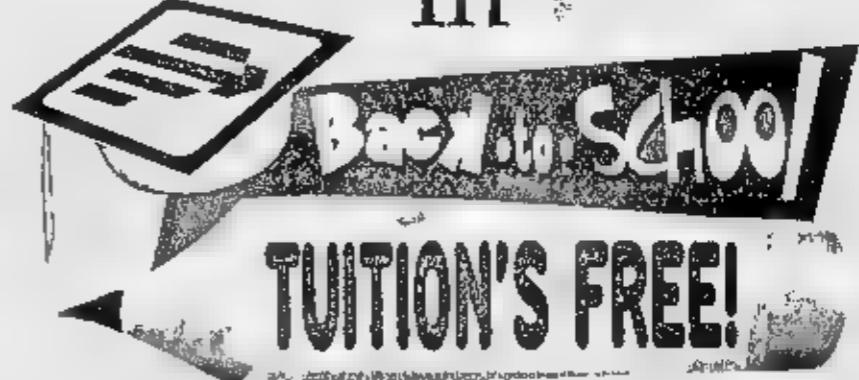
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COWBOY	FREE ENTRANCE	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COOL	(ACOUSTIC)	101-5555/88-1848
COWBOY	GOALKEY'S	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COOL	KOOL JACKS	801-7644
COWBOY	THINNERS w/ JOGRAD	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COOL	STAY TUNED/CITY 909	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COWBOY	SERSIDE PUZZLES	521-8143
COOL	HOMOSAPIENS	NO ENTRANCE FEE
COWBOY	H I M I G	836-9757
DOWNTOWN	MOONSTRUCKS	P 250 CONSUMABLE
		373-3333
KAMPO	BLAKDYK R O B / ENTITY	P 200 CONSUMABLE
		373-5110/373-7181
KAMPO	MERMAIDS	P 350 CONSUMABLE
		MICHELLE & NORIE
		373-2221/373-7183
	NEW LEVEL	NO ENTRANCE FEE
	7 SECONDS	373-1280/373-1405
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- All draws will be held at the 15/F BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. on the following dates:

Purchase Dates

April 30 to May 6
May 7 to May 13
May 14 to May 20
May 21 to May 27
May 28 to June 3
June 4 to June 10
June 11 to June 17
June 18 to June 24
June 25 to July 1
July 2 to July 8
July 9 to July 15

Draw Dates

May 9
May 16
May 23
May 30
June 6
June 13
June 20
June 27
July 4
July 11
July 18

of school age (elementary to college) up to a maximum of P100,000 subject to submission of proof of tuition fee payment or school assessment and birth certificate of the child. Otherwise, if client does not have a first degree family member of school age, or if client cannot submit required documentation, client then wins a cash prize of P50,000.

- Grand Draw will be held on July 18, 2001 at 15/F BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City at 3 p.m. A DTI representative will be present at each draw.
- An accountholder can only win once. Taxes on all prizes shall be shouldered by BPI.
- All Grand Draw winners can claim their prizes at 15/F BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati. Just present your Express Teller Card and one (1) valid ID (driving license, Company ID, SSS).
- List of account numbers with corresponding computer-generated raffle numbers will be available at the following locations:

* BPI Main Branch, BPI Head Office, Ayala Ave., Makati City

- * BPI Family Bank Main Branch, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
- * BPI Baguio-Burnham Branch, Baguio City
- * BPI Cebu-Mango Branch, Cebu City
- Winners will be notified by registered mail. Complete list of winners will be published in a major newspaper with national circulation at the end of the promo.

- Unclaimed prizes after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited with prior approval from DTI.
- All Express Teller/BPI Direct accounts that are closed, terminated, dormant, under litigation or garnished during the promo period are disqualified.
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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

A tradition of leadership

Barangay officials vs Malonzo appointment

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

HUNDREDS of barangay officials yesterday burned their ID cards to protest against what they called the "spurious" appointment of Reynaldo Malonzo as OIC mayor of Caloocan City.

About 1,500 residents joined them in staging simultaneous rallies at the main and north city halls in Caloocan and at the monument of Andres Bonifacio to urge President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw Malonzo's appointment.

Ronnie Valencia, chair of Barangay 25, said Malonzo should not have been named OIC because of his alleged " sins" to the city since he became mayor in 1995.

"It's obvious that he was appointed because of his connections with Giona," Valencia said in Filipino. "But the President should have considered what kind of mayor Malonzo was."

President Macapagal was said to have granted Malonzo's request to appoint "winning" candidates in the city as OICs since the Commission on Elections has yet to decide on a petition to declare an election failure. The petition was filed by Rep. Luis "Baby" Asiatic and his older brother Macario "Boy" Asiatic Jr.

Vangel Torcuado, 43, of the Samahan ng Malayang Kababahang Pangkabuhayan, said the President should "hear the voice of Caloocan and withdraw Malonzo's appointment."

But Malonzo's supporter and veteran street parliamentarian Nathanael Santiago belittled yesterday's mass rally. He said the Asistios could not urge the critical mass to rally behind their petition.

Santiago, secretary general of the party-list group Bayan Muna, ran for councilor under Malonzo's ticket on May 14. He was among the OICs Macapagal appointed.

Malonzo asked the protesters to rally instead in front of the Comelec office and urge the commission to immediately proclaim the official winners.

"Those who are staging rallies are nothing but losers," Malonzo told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "If they could show at least one proof that the Asistios won, I'll immediately step down. Nobody else deserves to be appointed OIC mayor than the one who won. I won."

Asistio supporters yesterday kicked off a series of mass actions against Malonzo with simultaneous rallies in key parts of Caloocan. As early as 8 a.m., Asistio supporters went to the city plaza and chanted "Rey Malonzo, mandaraya (cheat)" to the tune of "Glory, Glory Hallelujah."

Barangay officials burned their ID cards while others burned sticks of incense to "exorcise the evil that has befallen Caloocan."

MON TULLO submitted his "On Target" column late. It will be back on Thursday.

Kidnapped trader, employee rescued

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation nabbed a suspected kidnapper and rescued two of his victims—a Chinese businessman and his sales agent—in an operation over the weekend.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycooco said suspect Joel D. Dungo, 25, of San Nicolas corner Yakal Streets, Tondo, Manila, was the mastermind behind the abduction of Elmer Uy Chan, a dealer of semi-conductor spare parts in Manila, and his sales agent Rolando Estrella.

Wycooco said his men rescued Chan and Estrella on Saturday.

Lawyer Samuel Ong, newly appointed deputy director of the NBI Intelligence Services, told reporters that the two men were abducted on July 3 after Chan took his daughter to school.

Ong said Chan agreed to meet with Dungo at noon at the corner of Quincada and Yakal streets in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Dungo was also one of Chan's sales agents.

When Chan and Estrella arrived, the businessman invited Dungo to join him in his car, but Dungo allegedly refused.

"Instead, (Dungo) asked Estrella to buy something from a corner store," Ong said. "As Estrella alighted from the car, Dungo and three men who introduced themselves as policemen boarded Chan's car."

Ong said Dungo then took over the wheel and took Chan and Estrella to an undisclosed place.

Chan's wife Elizabeth said she received a call from her husband about 4 p.m. the same day. She said Chan confirmed to her that he and Estrella

had been abducted, and told her that the abductors were demanding P10 million in ransom for their release.

"She was instructed to deposit an initial amount of P100,000 at Citibank and was threatened that the men would be killed if she failed," Ong said. "This prompted her to report the matter to the NBI."

The following day, the kidnappers again ordered Elizabeth to deposit P200,000 in the Citibank account.

The kidnappers reportedly withdrew P100,000 from the account. Unknown to them, NBI agents were already on their trail.

Ong said a witness saw Chan and

Estrella talking to Dungo just before the kidnapping. When Ong invited Dungo to the NBI for questioning, the suspect was said to have admitted his participation in the kidnapping.

It was Dungo who led agents to the kidnappers' lair in Barangay Tulak in San Simon, Pampanga on Saturday. That hideout is owned by suspect Junior Santos, the NBI said.

But before the NBI could enter the hideout, the kidnappers fled, leaving the victims behind.

The NBI has charged Dungo with kidnapping and violation of the anti-carnap law before the Manila city prosecutor's office.

Gay cadets join drive ...

(From page A17)

cumulation in the ROTC program.

Carrying placards denouncing the alleged corruption, sexism and violence in the ROTC, the protesters led by the Sanakas-Youth and the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Manggagawang Pilipino toured university belt schools such as the Far Eastern University, San Sebastian College, University of the East and Centro Escolar University.

They told students that if military authorities do not want ROTC abolished, then they should make it voluntary since "no one will be a volunteer for a corrupt and problematic institution."

FEU student and spokesperson for SHE who identified himself only as Mark, said ROTC officials had duped him and other gay students into agreeing to form a "Flower Platoon."

"We ended up being the laughing stock of the ROTC-FEU battalion," Mark told the Inquirer. "Many of our officers treat us as toys. They make us entertainers. We are subjected to unjust punishments and burdened with lots of dues, knowing that many of us can't stand physical strain."

Kampi national chair Erwin Puhawan said that the youth's challenge is clear.

"If the Armed Forces of the Philippines does not want its reserve program abolished, they must do something concrete for the cadets."

"And this could be an optional ROTC (since) simple reforms within the ROTC are not enough."

Contrary to what the AFP claims, Puhawan said that the Constitution does not define military training as compulsory.

"What the charter states is that every Filipino should devote a fraction of his/her time for military training or civil community service," he explained. "The only problem is that military training (is covered by) the National Defense Act while the alternative does not have any substantiating law."

Kampi and Sanakas-Youth said they would demand from President Macapagal Arroyo and Congress an enabling law for voluntary ROTC and an act providing alternatives for the ROTC program.

They said they would also join other groups who would march to Congress later this month when the President delivers her state-of-the-nation address.

In Bacolod City, Education Secretary Raul Roa said on Saturday that the enrollment in the ROTC should be made optional because the military program has been ineffective.

"You cannot force people to learn from a program that is badly implemented in the first place. So there are occasions for graft, and it is of no consequence to anybody in particular."

But Roa batted for the retention of the Citizens Army Training or CAT, which he described as an extracurricular activity where training is done mostly in the afternoon. With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



ROTC cadets from UST rejoiced after walking out of formation on campus three Sundays ago.

JESS YUSON

Japanese man's death drug-related, say cops

BY ALCVIN PAPA

POLICE yesterday said the death of a Japanese in a Pasay City motel room on Friday might have something to do with drugs.

Pasay City police said they found drug paraphernalia in the motel room where Araku Yohei, 25, was found dead of apparent suicide Friday night.

Yohei, of Kokushuji, Japan, checked

into room 35 of the Vinta Lodge at the corner of A. Luna and Vilareal streets in Pasay City that afternoon with a Filipina companion identified as Unciona Oriundo, of 3710 Bautista Street, Pelican, Makati City.

"We found aluminum foils with traces of shabu in the room," said Chief Insp. Reynaldo Baral, head of the Pasay City Police Criminal Investigation Division. "It is likely the two took shabu

just before the man hanged himself."

Baral said they also found deep lacerations on Oriundo's neck. This led police to believe that the woman might have also tried to hang herself or that Yohei tried to strangle her as a result of a drug-induced high.

Baral said Oriundo might have passed out and, when Yohei saw the unconscious girl, he could have mistaken her for dead, which was why he

took his own life.

But investigators led by PO3 Mike Manaing could not be certain of this theory because they have not yet interviewed Oriundo, who is still in a state of shock after she was found with the dead Japanese on Friday.

Doctors at the Pasay City General Hospital where Oriundo is confined told police the woman might not regain her

Makati restaurant robbed

FOUR armed men robbed a popular Japanese restaurant in Makati City shortly before noon yesterday and fled with at least P90,000 in cash and jewelry. Nobody was reported hurt.

The heist was carried out a month after four men robbed two Chinese restaurants on Binawa Street in Quezon City.

The man was described as 20 to 25 years old, about 5-foot-5, medium-build

and police said two of the men announced the robbery while the two others acted as lookouts.

Asinas said the men took the restaurant's earnings of P70,000 as well as the cellular phones and other personal effects of the employees.

Nelson F. Flores

vestigator, said two of the men and the others acted as lookouts.

Asinas said the men took the restaurant's earnings of P70,000 as well as the cellular phones and other personal effects of the employees.

Witnesses told police they saw the man wandering aimlessly in the station

and clad in a blue shirt and denim shorts.

SPO4 Herminio Saquian of Westem Poblacion District Station 3 said the man jumped off the second-level staircase of the Baclaran-bound portion of the LRT-Doroteo Jose Station about 8:30 p.m.

Witnesses told police they saw the man wandering aimlessly in the station

and were shocked when he suddenly jumped off the staircase.

SPO4 Saquian said no one at the station knew the man and police did not find any form of identification on him.

Investigators said it could have been a suicide attempt or the result of drug abuse.

Jerome Amag

Man jumps off LRT Sta. Cruz station

AN unidentified man jumped off a Light Rail Transit station in Sta. Cruz, Manila yesterday morning and is now in critical condition at the intensive care unit of the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

The man was described as 20 to 25 years old, about 5-foot-5, medium-build

and clad in a blue shirt and denim shorts.

SPO4 Herminio Saquian of Westem Poblacion District Station 3 said the man jumped off the second-level staircase of the Baclaran-bound portion of the LRT-Doroteo Jose Station about 8:30 p.m.

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Jerome Amag

Reception for new Mexican ambassador to RP

THE MEXICAN community in Manila will welcome Enrique Hubbard, the new ambassador of Mexico to the Philippines, with a reception at the Taqueria Chilanga on Metropolitan Avenue and Pasong Tamo in Makati on July 11 at 6 p.m.

Ambassador Hubbard will be accompanied by his wife Mariana Evelina Frias. A career diplomat, Hubbard was ambassador to Belize before his assignment to Manila. He has also served as consul in Chicago, Illinois and

Brownsville, Texas; and consul general in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Miami, Florida.

Hubbard has written three books: "La Nacionalidad Mexicana Irrenunciable?" (Mexican Nationality Unrenounceable?), "Belize: Vecino

Ignorado" (Belize, Ignored Neighbor) and "Decadas" (Decades).

Taqueria Chilanga, where the reception will be held, is considered by Mexican expats as the "Mexican Esquina" in Manila.

Death sentence on memorial park killer ...

(From page A17)

Court records showed that the woman's husband, Noel Andres, argued with Gonzales's son Dino after Andres' Tamaraw FX nearly collided with Gonzales' car near the exit of the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on the eve of All Saints' Day in 1998.

Andres cut off Gonzalez's car, got off his FX, approached Gonzales and cursed him for "not knowing how to drive."

Two versions were given to the court. One version said Andres only approached Gonzalez's vehicle to advise him to be careful while driving.

Gonzalez's version said Andres cut his car's path, cursed his driving and even moved his FX to prevent his car from leaving the cemetery.

Gonzalez's son Dino emerged

from another car and confronted

attack and the fact that the victim was unarmed do not by themselves render the attack treacherous," the court said.

It noted that chance encounters, impulse killing or crimes committed at the spur of the moment or that were preceded by heated arguments "are generally not attended by treachery for lack of opportunity of the accused to deliberately employ a treacherous mode of attack."

The court said the encounter between Andres and Gonzalez was clearly a chance encounter as the two men were total strangers before their vehicles nearly collided.

"Unfortunately, the heated exchange of remarks that followed ... was fanned by a short temper, which in the case of (Gonzalez) was augmented by the impudent use of a firearm," the court explained.

It said a reading of the transcripts of the case showed that it was Andres

who provoked Gonzales when he tailing the latter up to the cemetery exit, cut him off and cursed him.

Andres told the court he was calm at the time but witnesses claimed otherwise.

"Andres' hostile behavior toward Gonzales was evident in (his) statement where he himself noted that (Gonzalez) turned red in anger (while he talked to him)," the court said.

The court said Gonzalez would not have turned red in anger "had Andres been polite, as he claimed he was, in scolding Gonzales. Andres could have simply communicated his disgust over the latter's bad driving when he overtook the assailant's car."

The court noted that Gonzalez did not act belligerently while Andres was cursing him and he only brought out his gun when Andres started shouting at his son.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Taking advantage of superior strength—Taking advantage of superior strength, alleged as generic aggravating circumstance, cannot be appreciated in the present case since the prosecution was not able to prove that the accused purposely used excessive force in the commission of the crime. The aggravating circumstance of abuse of superior strength depends on the age, size and strength of the parties. It is considered whenever there is a notorious inequality of forces between the victim and the aggressor, assessing a superiority of strength notoriously advantageous for the aggressor which is selected or taken advantage of by him in the commission of the crime. While it may be conceded that the three accused outnumbered the victim who was unarmed, it must be pointed out that numerical superiority does not always mean abuse of superiority. Under the facts of the case, the two accused attacked the victim alternately, thus is, one after the other. There was no notorious inequality of force shown to have been employed in the killing. In other words, the three accused did not secure advantage of their combined strength to perpetrate the crime with impunity. Indeed, when the attack was made on the victim alternately, there is no abuse of superior strength. [Cited: *Jona v. Quisumbing</*

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PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	ATLANTIS
ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS	SWORD FISH
MILA	TOMB RAIDER
CENTERPOINT	ACCIDENTAL SPY
PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	PEARL HARBOR
ACCIDENTAL SPY	CITY OF SINS
SWORD FISH	
ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS	
TOMB RAIDER	
PANINDA	
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS	
ATLANTIS	
MILA	
CITY OF SINS	
CITY FAIRVIEW	
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TOMB RAIDER	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ACCIDENTAL SPY	
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EVOLUTION	
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5 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S	4 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S	4 NEVER LIVE!
6 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	6 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	7 JUNE 13 & 14 9PM
7 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS	7 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG	8 JUNE 13 & 14 9PM
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOU C. CANINO, Editor

Now showing: The movie in his mind

ON JULY 11, the movie in the mind of Eugene Asis will be seen at last on the screen. The movie, a dream, started in the Seventies and grew and changed through the years.

The dream began in the '60s when Eugene, born on the rustic island of Alabat in Quezon province, was a boy going to high school in Lucena City on the mainland. Eugene wanted to be a movie star. "A comedian or an action star," he recalls.

Acting in school plays sparked the dream. "It felt good," he says, "when, after a play, many people would congratulate me."

The spark of a dream was dampened and it fizzed and almost died when, Eugene, already an architectural student at the National University in Manila, went home to Lucena just when Vilma Santos was making a working visit. "I realized that I couldn't be a movie star," Eugene says. "I realized that movie stars had to be mestizo," among other essentials.

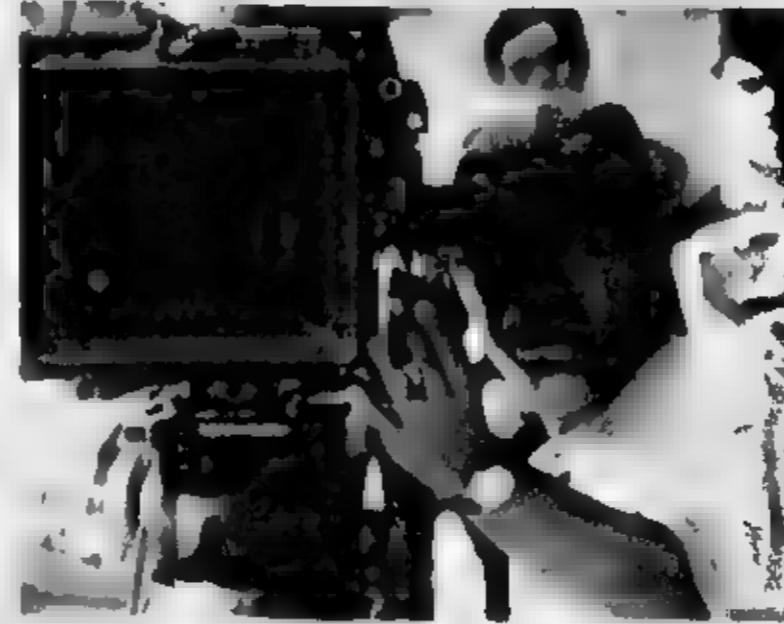
Not tall, not fair skinned, not possessed of a fine nose even and otherwise not having exceptional good looks that people would pay good money to watch, but blessed with a quiet sense of humor, deter-

mination, imagination and more than enough open-mindedness to last a lifetime, he did not let the lights go out on his movie dream. He changed his focus from acting to directing.

"My gang and I liked to watch movies, comedy and action movies, and I liked to critique the movies we saw. I remember I liked such films as Celso Ad. Castillo's 'Daiuyong at Habagat' and (Franklin Schaffner's) 'Papillon.' A movie started with the director thinking about it first, and then it became reality. I thought I could think about making movies, too, and I could think them into coming true."

They started coming true for him in the '80s. He took up a semester of filmmaking in 1980 and, two years later, was associate director on the action movie "Ninong," directed by Efren Pison and starring Rene Imperial. He was assistant director of Gene Palomo on the television series "Don Kamote de la Mancha," unit director and head writer on the Saturday afternoon talk show "Movie Patrol" which Palomo also directed.

After being diverted into a short stint in organizing and promoting



RIGHT DIRECTION. Direk Eugene Asis prepares for a shot.

Christmas bazaars for a friend, Eugene returned to TV and the movies, writing for TV's "True Confessions ng mga Bituin," writing the scripts for two movies, one of which he also co-directed with actor-comedian Ramon Zamora.

On the side, he had also been writing entertainment columns and features in People's Journal Tonight

while also being editor of a sports and show biz magazine for Atlas Publications. In 1990, he became entertainment editor of the tabloid People's Journal, a full-time post that he still holds.

Directing itch

In 1998, "I felt the itch to direct movies again," he says. "All the while, I wanted to direct movies but

I had no time."

He saw Mauro Gia Samonte, known director of sexy scripts and movies, on the street and gave him a ride in his car. A week later, Seiko Films called Eugene. Soon, he was working as Samonte's associate director on "Gigil," starring Nini Jacinto and Leonardo Litton.

As associate director, Eugene explains, he rehearsed the actors before the actual takes, he fed them lines during the takes, he took care of continuity—"all the dirty work."

Last year, during a trip to the United States, he attended a cinematography workshop at the Learning Tree University in Northridge, California. "One of my American classmates was a professional pornographer," he remembers.

Also last year, and also with Samonte, he assisted in directing the sex quickie "Kangkong" while writing another film script.

His own at last

On Wednesday, July 11, the movie based on that script will be shown at last — "Onsehan," starring Carlos Morales and Maricar de Mesa. And the full-fledged director is Eugene Asis.

The movie in his mind, the first

one that is all his own, is finally showing tomorrow, July 11.

Between Lucena City and "Onsehan," Eugene also got married and fathered two boys, found time to write a *komiks* novel called "Boy Hunter" and to be Noli de Castro's news writer in a 7 a.m. program on radio dZMM.

"Onsehan," in the words of its director, is "hard action, with gunfights, explosions, car chases, opening *pa lang, barilin na*. I really wanted to do an action movie."

It is the first action movie of Carlos Morales, the hunk of Chito Roño's "Laro sa Bagay." Carlos plays two characters, a cop and a robber, while Maricar de Mesa is a "high-class prostitute" that a syndicate uses to catch Carlos the robber. The Carlos and Maricar characters, of course, fall in love with each other.

"Both are dark characters," the director says of the characters he wrote, "and both are looking for love."

When Eugene first submitted the "Onsehan" script to Mother Lily Monteverde, the Regal Films matriarch did not even know what the

NOW/A19

New animated features make waves

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

enigmatic Yashiro

Later, he finds his loved ones stolen by the evil demons Malos and Vashista. Raphael forges his pain into a powerful sword and vows to battle evil throughout time as an immortal.

In modern times, Raphael is joined by his trusted squire Goodwin and Dr. Sara Beckman, a scientist who has created a technology for hunting demons.

TV treats

"BY DEMAND" is back on Channel V Int'l. This month, telecasting from Monday to Friday at 9 p.m. With veejays Asha and Adrian on top of things, viewers can tune in, log on and request their favorite videos.

Also on Channel V Int'l., the "Spotlight artist" of the month is British pop diva Geri Halliwell.

On Star World last June 26, the

exciting drama "JAG" launched its fifth season. The protagonist, Lieut. "Harm" Rabb Jr., is a hotshot lawyer for the Judge Advocate General Corps, and his mission is to investigate and prosecute all crimes, accidents and acts of terrorism and espionage related to the Navy and Marine Corps. "JAG" is telecast every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

"Everybody Loves Raymond" is also into its new season on Star World. Ray Romano plays a sports columnist who vainly tries to achieve a semblance of domestic tranquillity at home with his wife, daughter, twin boys, meddlesome parents and intrusive brother. Catch "Everybody Loves Raymond" every Monday at 8:30 p.m.

Finally, July is animal month on National Geographic Channel on its "Saturday Unlimited" program. It replaces air with fluids

every Saturday at 7 p.m. Today, "Polar Bear" takes viewers to the icy habitat of the white bears. On July 14, "The Great Ape" tracks the fascinating man-like creatures in the wild.

On July 21, "Reptilian Encounters" focuses on sea snakes, endangered sea turtles, iguanas and alligators. On July 28, the humpback whale and the Bowhead are featured in "Whale-Watching."

Episode 54 of "Tomorrow's World" airs July 12, 9:30 p.m. In store for the program are "Robotic Monkey," the quest to create machines with artificial intelligence continues; "Space Tourism," passenger trips into orbit which could soon be a reality and as accessible as plane travel today; and "G-Suit" to help pilots counteract G Force using an innovative suit that

Aiko focuses on QC garbage, not trashy rumors

JUST because a relationship has ended does not mean that it failed. Both parties are better persons for having touched each other's lives. Ask Aliko Melendez.

Aiko has bounced back after splitting up with Jonzari Yllana but she says she has no regrets at all. "Jonz will always be special to me because he gave me our son Andre (who's turning 3 in September). For now we're better off this way."

Besides, Aiko is too busy—as newly elected councilor of the second district of Quezon City—to mope about the separation.

"I have to learn to keep my humility and appreciate life more," the new politician says. "After all, I'm still very blessed because God gave me a chance to use my popularity for a good cause."

The perennial question remains: What is dirtier, politics or showbiz? Even in her new arena, crazy rumors continue to bound Aiko. There's this drivel linking her to Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte. There are insinuations that the air would be thick with tension if Aiko crosses paths with Rep. Chuck Mathay, whose daughter Ara Mina is the alleged cause of Aiko's split-up with Jonz.

Knowing Aiko, she would rather focus on Quezon City's pollution and garbage problem than all the trash reports about her personal life.

Jessica in 7th heaven.

JESSICA Rodriguez is in a euphoric mood following her US holiday with hubby David Bunevac and her two kids. Love has given her a better fate because she is one woman who has always loved to the max notwithstanding the insults and intrigues hurled her way.

"We went to the largest ski resort in California called Mammoth," she recalls. "It was the very first time my kids played in the snow. We all went naked into a natural hot spring, then David took the kids fly fishing in a river nearby."

I tease her: "Fortunately his ex, Anjanette Khayari who's also in the States, wasn't nearby."

She laughs and then rambles on. "I cooked dinner for them when they came back because we had to put back the fish they caught. It's the law there. After dinner we went to an outdoor spa surrounded by snow-covered mountains. It was such a perfect moment."

Just listening to Jessica made me feel like asking if her one-way ticket to 7th heaven could be transferable to me?

Diet makes rumors die

DIETHER Ocampo just shrugs off talk that Rosanna Roces complained about his acting in their upcoming movie "La Vida Rosa." Says Diet: "I hope people will watch the movie first before jumping to conclusions. As

of your mom."

"I know," I said. "We will always suffer by comparison though we can't deny it also has its advantages."

Then I looked for his brother Bigboy whom I met a few months back. "He's not here," said Hans. "I'm sure you think I'm older than him. I just look older."

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Lyka says, "Ticket prices will still be lower than other cinemas. Mas pa rin ang SM as always. Soon our snacks will have a theme. Tipong Hollywood ang dating and there will be a small nook in every cinema so the public can take coffee while waiting for the next screening."

See you at the movies!

PERSONAL: Happy anniversary to my babe! Thanks for loving me. I thank you even more for letting me love you.

For feedback, e-mail: wateringhole2000@yahoo.com



far as I know, wala naman kaming problema ni Osang. She's just outspoken. Maybe other people only misinterpreted her."

Don't worry, Diet. Your box-office hits speak for themselves. If there's anything your fans complain about, it's that they can never have enough of you.

SM Cineplex

I attended the opening of Megamall's Cineplex. Former actress Lyka Ugarte is the woman behind the cineplex operations.

She's happy with her new job but she laments, "I'm married to SM. Who will ever fall in love with a woman like me who works late hours?"

I kidded her, "With all the moviegoers lining up daily, you can easily pick one from the crowd and have a date in the cineplex."

I got to meet Hans Sy and was a bit surprised to find out that he was so amiable. He said, "You and I have the same dilemma. I'm always in the shadow of my dad and you are in the shadow

of your mom."

"I know," I said. "We will always suffer by comparison though we can't deny it also has its advantages."

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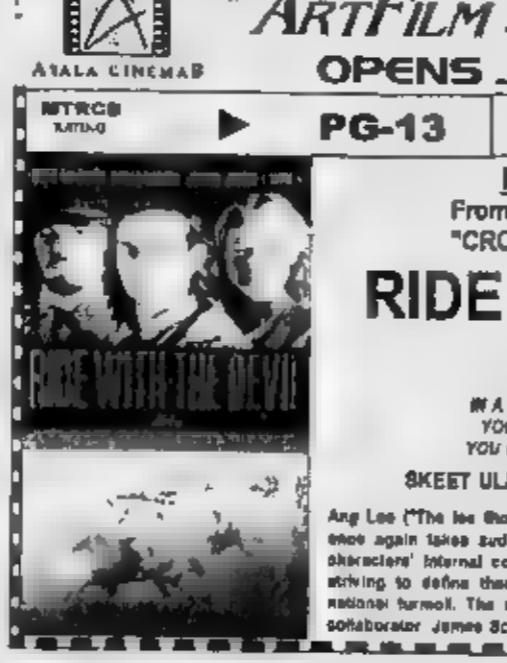
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ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4

OPENS JULY 11 (Wed.)

PG-13

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PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"

RIDE WITH THE DEVIL

A Film by ANG LEE

IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH,
YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY.
YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.

SKEE ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT
ANG LEE ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted by Lee's longtime collaborator James Schamus from Daniel Woodrell's novel *Wise to the Game*.



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Prospective NSC buyers given Sept. 30 deadline

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE GOVERNMENT-LED body tasked to oversee the revival of National Steel Corp. has given prospective investors of the failed steel giant until the end of this quarter or Sept. 30 to submit their proposals to lease and operate the Iligan steel factory which has been closed since November 1999.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II, chair of the NSC evaluation committee, said the group would give emphasis to both the financial and technical capability of the prospective investor to re-start,



ROXAS II

operate and market products of NSC.

Roxas said the NSC committee—composed of representatives from NSC's Malaysian owners, local creditors and government agencies—would tap an independent technical adviser that would evaluate the prospective investor's expertise to run NSC's Iligan plant.

The prospective investor should have the technical know-how with proven track record in the steel business and the capability to protect both plant and property from damage.

This would have equal weight-

ing with the prospective investor's financial status (including proof of financial resources base and past performance) as well as proposed strategies in marketing NSC's finished products and sourcing of raw materials.

Prospective investors would have to submit a broad range of proposals, which include the duration of lease at varying lengths.

Based on published reports, interested investors of NSC are Swiss commodities trader Glencore, Cathay Pacific Steel Co. and Altenago.

Roxas stressed that there would

be no bidding because the choice of the committee was not binding on Hottack-Renong Bhd. and the creditor-banks led by Philippine National Bank. The creditors and owners of NSC have a pending case on the liquidation of the company with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which is also a member of the committee.

But Roxas said this would not diminish the importance of this move, which he considered a major breakthrough in the long-

running stalemate, because it would address the more pressing issue of preventing NSC's multibillion-peso assets from crumbling due to inactivity.

SEC wants LGUs, trade dep't to oversee lending investors

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas plan to push for a new law to transfer regulation over lending investors to local government units or the trade and industry department.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said last week the Commission would work closely with the BSP to craft such a proposed law and lobby its adoption by Congress.

The SEC last week decided to require new lending investors to register as finance companies registered with the trade and industry department as single proprietorships or partnerships.

The latest policy decision of the SEC calls for lending investors applying for incorporation to register themselves as finance companies, forcing them to comply with a set of capital and reportorial requirements imposed by the regulatory agency.

Under the rules of the SEC, finance companies must have a capital base of 10 million if they are operating within Metro Manila, P5 million in other cities and 2.5 million for municipalities.

There are 174 finance companies licensed by the SEC.

Napocor eyes asset sale to Meralco

STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. plans to resume talks with power distributor Manila Electric Co. for the sale of what it calls power subtransmission lines valued at more than P500 mln.

"We are reopening talks with Meralco," Asisolo Gonzaga, chief operating officer of Napocor, said.

Napocor, the country's largest supplier of electricity, had discussed the possible sale of its transmission assets to Meralco in 1998 but the talks bogged down because of disagreements on pricing.

2nd quarter growth seen at 3%

(From page B1)

Impact

"Prior to the May elections, there was a ban on the release of funds, but after that, the government was able to spend more for infrastructure," he said.

Asked on the impact of typhoon Perla, which left a death toll of more than a hundred, as well as millions of damage on property and crops,

Canlas said he had already asked the National Economic and Development Authority's (Neda) technical committee to assess the impact on the economic figure for the third quarter.

An upsurge in food and fuel prices alongside pressures from the peso depreciation and school year opening jacked up the country's annual inflation rate to 6.7 percent in June from 6.5 percent in May.

Road...

(From page B1)

10 percent by French Egis Projects. The remaining 20 percent is distributed among foreign mutual funds.

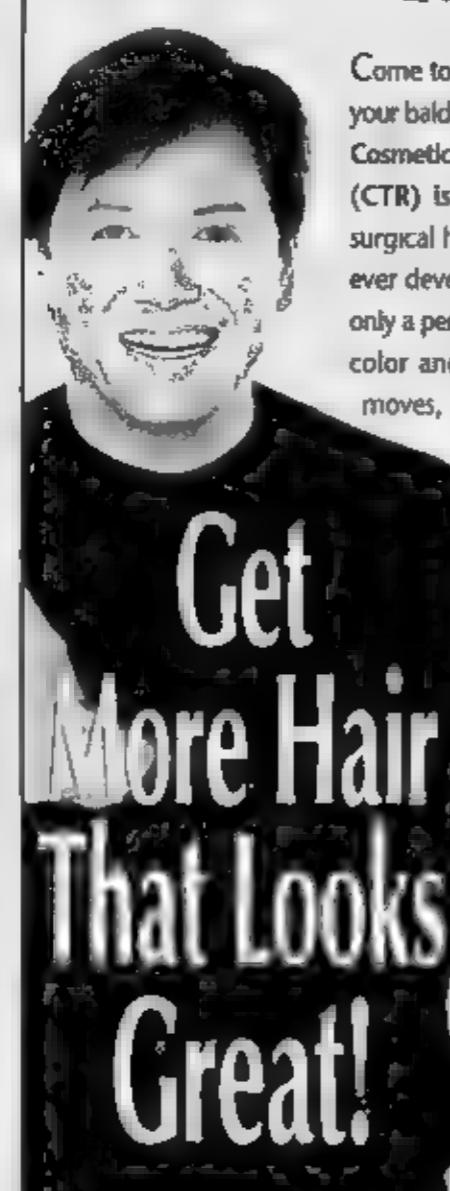
Camacho said the DOF has approved the toll operating agreement of Manila North Tollways.

While Camacho insisted that there were no guarantees given, another finance official claimed the contract contained generous guarantees approved by the Tollways Regulatory Board.

"When we read the contract, the wordings of the guarantees were very general, which means the government may end up shouldering all risks, including those it had absolutely no control over," said the finance official.

The Macapagal administration would like to prevent itself from incurring more debts because of these guarantees arrangements.

A finance official noted that the only risks that government must ensure were political risks, regulatory risks, and right-of-way risks. But items like return volume of commuters, and sales should not be the government's problem.



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WESTERN TUTORIAL 7521756			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
MAIDS/MAID			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
MOYSEBELL MAIDS			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
BEET MAID 7111082/7116039			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
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PACIFIC MAIDS ETC SINCE 1948 T-7312672			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
100% live video autores info 0917-630871/7114562			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
L-BAHAY 9206784 4640620			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
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CLOSED ALUM VAN 8212970			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
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LBAHAY 713-8074/7114177			SALES CLERKS AT LEAST 2ND YR COL. APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST. BONIFACIO MTA. BRNG RESUME W/PICTURES MB/ BIRTH CERT & PREV EMPLOYMENT CERT IF AVAILABLE FROM 8:30 AM			
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OBITUARIES

"Happy are those who are humble.
They will receive what God has promised!"

Salvador "Doding" L. Carlos

peacefully passed into eternal life
on July 8, 2001 at the age of 68.

His bereaved wife,
Gigi

Children
Anna & Sam, Jigs, and Reina & Cito

Grandchildren
Justin and Katrina

Brothers, sisters and in-laws
Tony (+) & Elsa, Ito & Mining, Lita, Arturo & Maggie,
and Cristina & Tony

Fely, Chitoag & Marica, Bea & Cleofe, and Mousching

Cousins, nieces and nephews and other relatives,
request the reader to remember in their prayers
this good and humble man.

His body lies in state at the Shrine of
Mount Carmel Church, Broadway, Quezon City Crypt.

Cremation follows the 8:30 a.m. Mass on
Wednesday, July 11, 2001 at the main altar.

We lovingly remember
our dearest TATAY on his
First Death Anniversary

ESTANISLAO VARGAS MARASIGAN

June 22, 1915 — July 10, 2000

The family and relatives request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul

Masses will be offered at the following Churches
on July 10, 2001:

Parish of St. Isidore
Cuenca, Batangas 6:00 a.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish 6:45 a.m.
BF Homes, Phase III, Parañaque 7:00 p.m.
Resurrección Parish
BF Homes, Phase I, Parañaque 6:30 a.m.

IN MEMORY OF THE SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE

MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN

24 October 1927 - 11 JULY 1999

Holy Masses will be offered on Wednesday, 11 July 2001
in the following churches:

CEBU

Cebu Memorial Park	5:30 P.M.
Santo Rosario Church	5:00 A.M.
Redemptorist Church	7:00 A.M.
San Nicolas Church	7:00 A.M.
Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral	7:30 A.M.
Basilica del Santo Niño	8:00 A.M.
Capitol Parish Church	12:15 P.M.
St. Therese of the Child Jesus	12:15 P.M.

MANILA

Our Lady of Mount Carmel	7:00 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio	12:15 & 6:00 P.M.
St. Alphonsus de Liquori Church	6:00 P.M.
CEBU	
Mabolo Parish Church	5:00 P.M.
San Vicente Parish Church (Bogo)	5:00 P.M.
Guadalupe Parish Church	6:00 P.M.
Sacred Heart Parish Church	6:00 P.M.

Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

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with a picture
can be a fitting
tribute to your
departed loved one.

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FR. RAIMUNDO E. ARGARATE, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Sunday, 8 July 2001.

Wake: Oratory of St. Ignatius at Loyola House of Studies,

Ateneo de Manila University Campus, Loyola Heights, Q.C.

Funeral Mass: at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th July at Oratory of St. Ignatius,
Loyola House of Studies.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Q.C.,
immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, 11th July

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL

Aurora Waway A. Roño

of San Pablo City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 6, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her loving husband Tony Sr. (+); son Tony Jr.;
daughter-in-law Luz; grandchildren Elmo and
Debbie, Ella and Rodel; great grandchildren
Andrew, Zachary, Lindsay, adopted children and
relatives, request the pious readers to pray for the
eternal repose of her soul

Her remains lie in state at her residence, Roño's
place, San Pablo City.

Interment will be on Friday, July 13, 2001 after the
8:00 a.m. Mass at San Pablo Cathedral

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

ATTY. MARTIN A. GALIT, SR.

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 01, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest
appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who,
in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us
in the hour of bereavement.

CAPT. FRANCISCO P. ARCIAGA

(Retired)

March 27, 1925—July 3, 2001

Passed on to his eternal rest on July 3, 2001 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife Amanda D. Carrillo; children
Orlando, Grizelda, Daisy, Bituin, Ma. Franchette and
Ma. Claudette; in laws Yoko Sato and Eduardo Devanadera;

grandsons Toshiie, Ken, Andrew, Bryan and Allan.

His body lies in state at his residence at 502 M.H. del Pilar St.,

Pila, Laguna.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 12, 2001

after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Anthony of Padua

Catholic Church, Pila, Laguna.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

BENSAN INDUSTRIES, INC. ("BENSAN"), a domestic corporation, is lawfully engaged in the business of treating, re-refining, reprocessing, handling, storing, and/or properly disposing used/waste oil. It is duly accredited by the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources as a registered re-refiner of used/waste oil.

The public is hereby notified that transactions involving the hauling/transporting of used/waste oil for BENSAN, should be entered into directly with BENSAN. Authorizations previously granted to other entities have been properly revoked.

Transactions entered into with other entities purported acting on behalf of BENSAN will not bind, and shall not be honored by BENSAN. The public is requested to report incidents involving unauthorized representations by other entities/persons to Ms. Yvette S. Santos-Tan at Tel. Nos. 384-3896, 384-4859, 364-1696 or 364-4868, or to write BENSAN at 363 EDSA, Caloocan City, Metro Manila.

Caloocan City, Metro Manila, 2nd of July 2001.

(PD: July 16, 2001)

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Investors snap up shares of IT firm

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

INVESTORS yesterday snapped up shares of software service firm SQL Wizard Inc., the first local stock to brave the battered market this year.

The offering of four million shares or 20 percent of total equity at P1.75 each was fully subscribed on the first day of offering, indicating the market's appetite for smaller capitalized companies with good fundamentals, traders said.

The underwriting agreement between Pacific Asia Capital Corp. and SQL Wizard was signed yesterday, the first day of its five-day offer period. The shares will start public trading on July 20.

PSE president Ramon T. Garcia said SQL Wizard was a good company to jumpstart the small and medium enterprise (SME) board of the exchange.

"With its good track record, it has the potential to declare cash dividends," he said.

Pacific Asia managing director Benito Soliven III said he was confident of a warm reception for SQL Wizard because "it shows the ingenuity of the Filipino in the area of information technology."

DISCLOSURES

ALSONS Cement Corp. cancelled its Aug. 16 special stockholders' meeting due to delays in the procurement of pertinent clearances and approvals from regulatory offices.

MACROASIA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 20, 3 p.m. at the Kachina Room of Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. Only stockholders of record as of June 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

PRUDENTIAL Bank will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 8, 4 p.m. at the 3/F boardroom of Prudential Bank Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City. Only stockholders as of June 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

PHILTREAD Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 25, 3 p.m. at the Turf Room of Manila Polo Club. Only stockholders as of May 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

CENTRO Esecular University will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 24, 3:30 p.m. at the University's boardroom in San Miguel Manila. Only stockholders as of July 3 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

TRADING for the shares of Welles Industries Inc., Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc., Unifill Resources & Holdings Co. Inc., Sinophil Corp., RFM Corp., Philippine National Construction Corp., Phicconsat Holdings Corp., Fil-Estate Corp., and Benguet Corp. shall be suspended on July 16 unless the companies submit the structured reporting requirements of the PSE Philippines Stock Exchange.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Monday, July 9, 2001)				
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	72	72	71	71	43,400
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	50
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35	35	96,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	205	207	205	205	45,100
Philippine National Bank	45	45	45	45	2,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	71,500
BANKS					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	150,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	260	260	250	250	1,410
Maritime Financial Corp.	14.0	14.25	14.10	14.10	3,910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1205	1205	1200	1205	6,010
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	3,600
Diversified Fin. Network	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.56	0.5	0.54	3,070,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	670	670	159
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	2,900,000
Liberty Telecom Holdings	0.57	0.53	0.57	0.53	250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	12,270
Phil. Long Dist. Tel Co.	710	710	705	705	40,000
Uniview Corp.	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1,270
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	31,800,000
COMMUNICATION					
Manila Electric Co. A	38.5	39	38.5	39	14,400
Manila Electric Co. B	53.5	54.5	52	52.5	851,800
Petron Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.1	6,755,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term. Sv	2.6	2.5	2.48	2.5	1,785,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.18	1,278,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.1	5.2	4.85	4.85	8,749,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	181,200
La Tondina Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	216,000
RFM Corp.	1.86	2.1	1.86	2.1	17,519,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	42	40.5	42	26,100
San Miguel Corp. B	47.5	48	47.5	48	281,000
Vitrich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Corp Res & Hdg A	0.86	0.86	0.84	0.84	370,000
Aba Corp.	7	7	6.9	6.8	38,000
Aboluti Equity Ventures	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	54,000
Alp.Net Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.22	1,828,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	30,000
Alcon Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	9,000,000
Boulevard Cos Indus Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.205	850,000
Brennan Holdings Inc.	1.89	1.9	1.84	1.9	180,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
DMC Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	600,000
Eldcom Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.16	0.12	0.14	3,850,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	120,000
First Phil. Hdg Corp.	31	31.5	31	31	281,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	20,000
Glaco Holdings (Phils.)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Ionicos Inc.	11	11	11	11	1,800
People Inc.	116	116	116	116	123,000
People Int'l. B	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	7,000
J.G. Sumitro Holdings Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	136,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.78	0.74	0.78	80,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.47	410,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.46	80,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	15,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	940,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Matsushita Elec. Phil. Corp.	5	5	5	5	80,000
Music Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	24,000
Central Azucar Dan Pedro	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	80,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	43,400
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Bella Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.5	2,530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	210,000
Premier Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdn)	40	40	40	40	2,800
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Prl	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	1,099
DwCI Holdings Inc.-Prl	495	495	495	495	1,000
Equitable Pnkt. Warr.	2.00	2.08	2.08	2.08	467,000
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	43,300
Ormeo Corp. Warrant	0.0029	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	60,000,000
PLDT (10% Prtl) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
Philweb.Com Inc. Warrants	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	24,800,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	2,542,000

C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	160,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.18	184,000
Kuak Prop. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	2,500,000
Fl-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	80,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	1,505,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.976</				

People, Events & Products

Aries B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

espinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Globe offers more interactive landline text service

GLOBE Telecom made a huge impact on the Philippine text messaging scene when it pioneered the Philippines' first-ever text messaging service through landline telephone.

Previously, text messaging was a service available only through cellular phones, but Globe Telecom changed all that with the launching of its Globelines telephone service of the "Globelines 1-900-TXT."

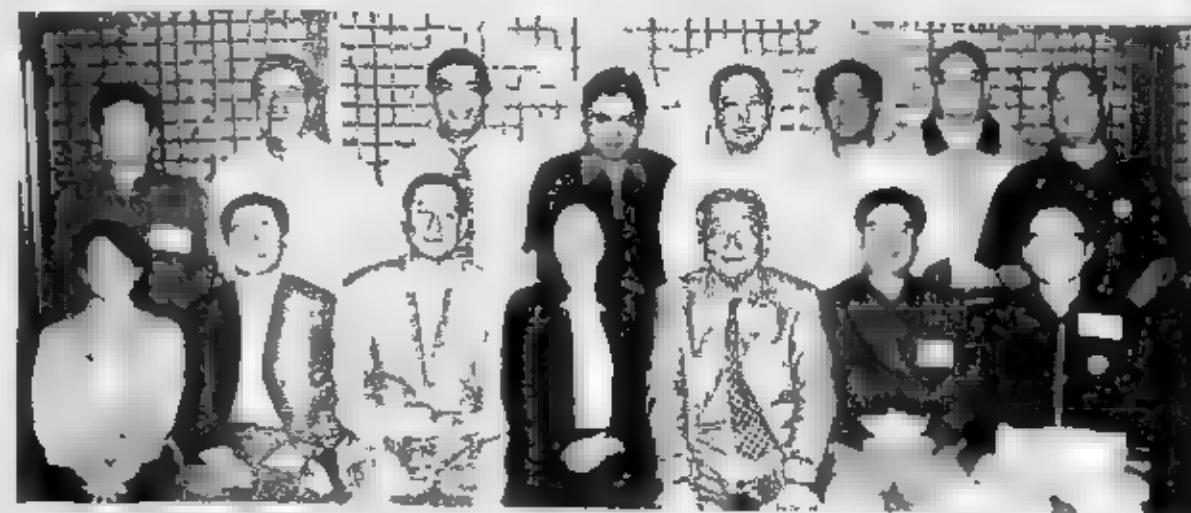
"Bringing text service to landline users, Globeline 1-900-TXT is a first in the Philippines. Our introduction of text service via landline is in keeping with Globe Telecom's thrust to constantly offer our customers the latest innovations and groundbreaking industry advancements," said Venancio Chan, Globe telecom assistant vice president for fixed network marketing.

Chan adds that Globe Telecom's landline text messaging enjoys significant advantages. Globelines subscribers can send and even receive text messages from all Globe cell phone users, and enable subscribers to access exciting information services. No activation is required.

"Unlike other landline text services in the country today, Globelines subscribers do not have to apply or register separately for their text service. All our Globelines subscribers that are NDD-activated are automatically capable of sending and receiving text messages with Globelines 1-900-TXT," Chan said.

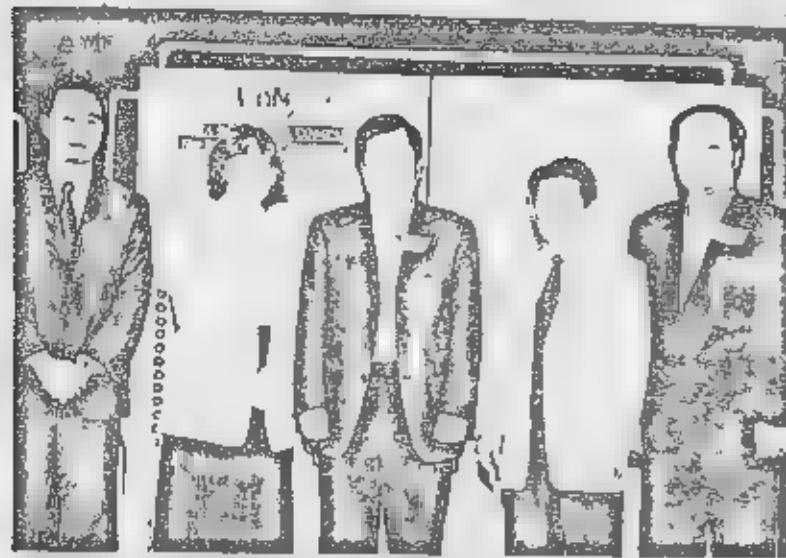
Text messaging via landline can be done with subscribers using the telephone's number keys to compose and send text. To transmit text messages, Globelines subscribers have to dial the access number 1-900-898 (or 1-900 TXT) on their telephones and follow the simple voice instructions that they will hear.

Using the number keys, Globelines subscribers can choose to send ready-made messages or compose their own messages. To compensate for the absence of a visual display when composing text messages, the Globelines 1-900-TXT service announces each letter or instruction as encountered by subscribers while keying in their messages.



ADASIA DELEGATES VISIT RP

Five officials from the steering committee of AdAsia 2001 Taipei visited the Philippines and encouraged the advertising industry practitioners to attend the Asian Advertising Congress. The delegation consisted of chair Longmen Hu, deputy executive directors Clark Huang, Raymond So, Johnny Tuan, and secretary-general Jonathon Chen. The AdAsia delegates gave a short briefing on the congress' program and speakers, as well as the culture and city attractions of Taipei at the general membership meeting of the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies-Philippines (AAI) at Acced Center, Makati City. Shown are the delegates from AdAsia 2001 Taipei during the welcome dinner by the AdBoard directors at Kamayan Restaurant, Makati City. Seated (from left) are Angge Suiza, Jonathon Chen, Johnny Tuan, Susan Dimacal (AdBoard chair), Longmen Hu, Raymond So and Clark Huang. Standing (from left) are Joe Sy, Boy Pangilinan, Jun Alcantara, Alvin Manasca, Oski Valenzuela, Egy Navalta, Afil Khodr and Mackoy Villaroman.



10 HANDYMAN STORES INAUGURATED

Handyman, the do-it-yourself hardware store chain of Robinsons, formally inaugurated its 10 new outlets for 2000. The grand inaugural held at the Manansala Hall of Manila Galleria Suites was highlighted by a symbolic lighting ceremony. Little houses representing Handyman outlets were mounted on a panel and lit simultaneously with the corresponding branch locations. The ceremony was led by Willy T. Co, president of Robinsons Handyman, Inc. (RHI); Mary Harper, general manager of SC Johnson and Son Inc.; James L. Go, president of JG Summit Holdings; Ronnie T. Ong, RHI general manager; and Benjamin Co, RHI vice president. Handyman now has 30 outlets nationwide.

Westminster on career talk outreach

THE PATH to prosperity is paved with the right career choice. This is the gist of the career outreach program Westminster Colleges of the Philippines (WCP) conducted among selected commercial and industrial firms in Antipolo City.

"In view of the ever-increasing cost of education, we have taken the initiative to be one with the school's immediate community to share our insights in career choices," Arlyn Grace Guico, WCP president, said.

The career talks were conducted during lunch breaks of the Antipolo City-based companies. The novel idea was welcomed by the employees who sat down with school officials to validate their views about career paths for themselves and their dependents.

Among the companies who participated in the WCP-sponsored outreach activity were

Jollibee, McDonald's, Marfis Garments Corp., and Snow Down Garments. A total of 600 employees benefited from the talks led by Jay Comendador, WCP faculty member and administrative officer.

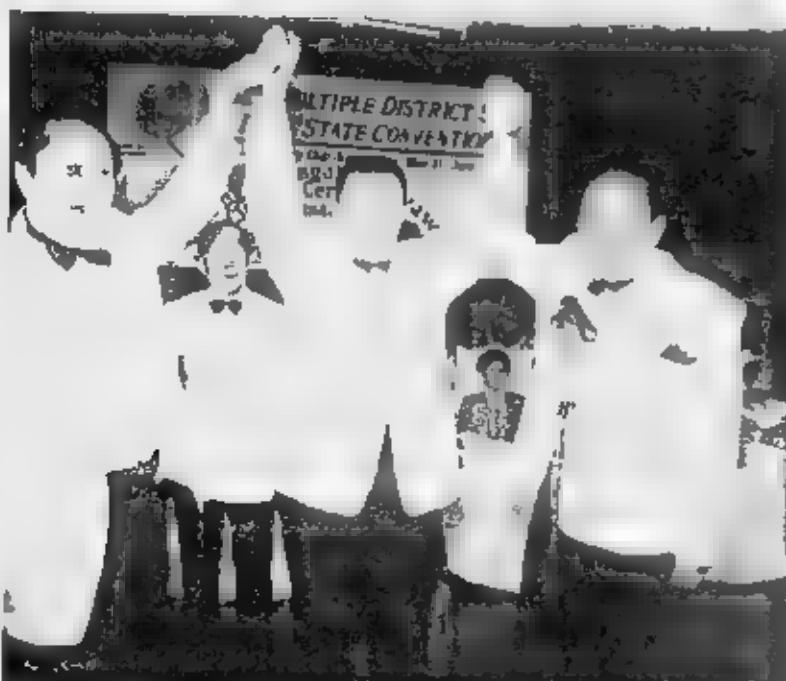
"Westminster Colleges of the Philippines will continue to serve the community in various ways. The career talks outreach is just one way of guiding parents to optimize precious resources for their children's education," stressed Guico.

WCP offers Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in management marketing, banking and finance, Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Bachelor of Science in Criminology, Bachelor in Elementary Education, and Bachelor in Secondary Education major in English, mathematics and health and science. The campus is located at 150 M.L. Quezon Avenue, Antipolo City.



BASF ASEAN EXECS VISIT LOCAL BASF

BASF marketing executives from the ASEAN region recently visited the Philippines to observe the various marketing initiatives implemented by BASF Coatings Inc. (BCP). The visitors noted that one of these initiatives—product launches targeting independent bodyshops—could be applied to their markets. The executives were in the country to witness the R-M 2K Polyurethane performance demonstration where bodyshops owners and painters were updated on the latest technology in automotive paints. Leading the tour of BASF's dispersions plant in Canlubang, Laguna was BCP business development manager Ludi Pastor, followed by Jian Jinshi (BASF International Chemtrada, Taiwan Ltd.), John Loi (BASF Malaysia), Robin Tay (BASF Malaysia), Moon Jae Yong (Sanha Korea), Walter Lim (Formosa Paint Co. Ltd.) and BASF Philippines plant manager Cesar Domingo.



LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT VICE GOV PROCLAIMED

Past district governor Mariano Chan (right), chair of the Lions State Council of Governors, and District 301-A1 (Manila) governor Frank Ching Solay (left) proclaim Robert Roque Jr. as vice governor-elect of Lions Clubs International District 301-A1 at the close of the 52nd Multiple District 301 Lions State Convention held recently at the Baguio Country Club.

Miriam alumni homecoming

THE SOCIAL Work Department of Miriam College will have an Alumni Homecoming at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 14 at the Marian Auditorium of Miriam College. For inquiries, call Salvacion Rodriguez, chair of the Social Work Department, at 435-9232 or 435-9240 local 248. The Social Work graduates of the institution will join the alumni of all the other courses of the college department in an event titled "Kita Kita, Kapit-Kapit sa 75th," a kick-off celebration of the educational institution's diamond jubilee.

Pick Cotton USA finalists and win

IN the ongoing "Quest for the Cotton USA Moving Spirits" promotion, every P100 purchase of Cotton USA labeled clothes or Breeze products entitles the consumer to a ballot cum-raffle ticket. Ballots can be redeemed from the store where they purchased the item/s, while Breeze product consumers can redeem their ballots from any participating Cotton USA clothing and outlets. By encircling their top three choices each for "Moving Spirits Tykes" and "Moving Spirits Teens" from a pool of 12 talented "Moving Spirits" finalists listed on the ballots, they can win in the raffle draw scheduled on July 26. Win a Sony Home Entertainment System, or go on a 4-day, 3-night vacation for two to Bangkok with a US\$500 pocket money. Submit entries at drop boxes located at participating Cotton USA clothing licensee brands. Deadline for submission of raffle entries will be at the end of store hours on July 15.

Seminar on face-to-face selling set

SELLING — what is perhaps the most important skill in today's business world, will be the focus of the "Face-to-Face Selling Skills" seminar of Mansmith and Fie'k Inc. (7236671, 4164662 or 7222318) July 14 at the Mandarin Hotel. The seminar is a skill-building lecture-workshop for entrepreneurs, salespeople dealing directly with end-consumers, and senior salesmen with no formal training. Key topics to be covered are behaviors and market forces that influence consumers' buying habits; finding out consumer needs and problems; presentation and communication skills; handling objections and complaints; effective techniques in closing a sale.



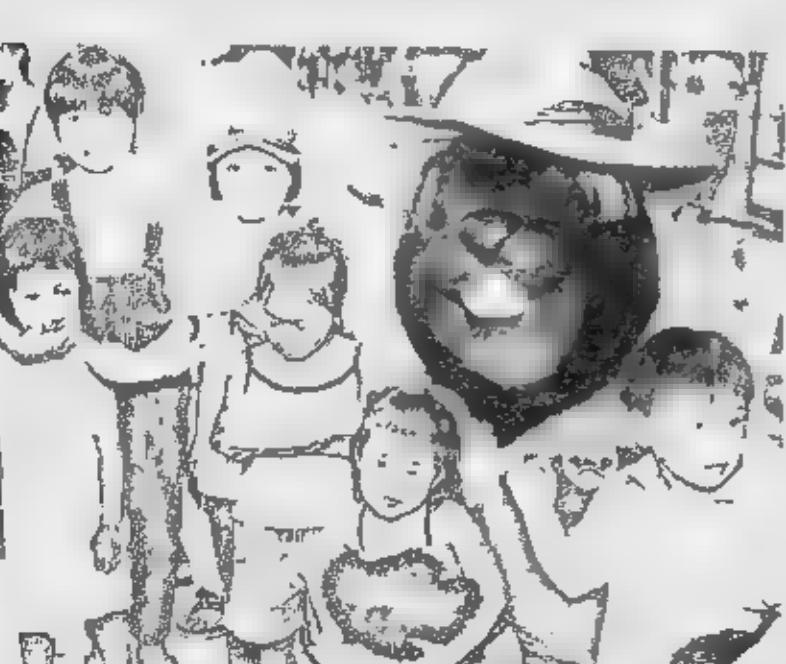
CONEXYS, ePLDT AGREEMENT

Conexys Corp., a Canada-based international provider of advanced communication services, has sealed a partnership agreement with ePLDT, the principal vehicle for PLDT's Internet, e-commerce and multimedia businesses. Through this tie-up, ePLDT will be able to market Conexys' unified messaging service "iComMand," which will allow users to access their email, voice mail, and fax via the Internet, or through a landline or mobile phone, a PC or a wireless PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) conveniently anywhere in the world. Photo shows (from left) Ariel A. Roda, co-managing director ePLDT; Ray C. Espinosa, co-managing director of ePLDT; Therone S. Yupangco, Conexys Asia Pacific managing director; Joseito B. Hermoso, country manager of Conexys Philippines.



PPS, RECKITT BENCKISER UNITE FOR HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Reckitt Benckiser, a recognized name in infection control, and the Philippine Pediatric Society, an organization acknowledged for its programs that promote child care, join forces to launch a program that aims to empower Filipino families against infectious diseases. Reckitt Benckiser and the PPS launched an extensive education drive on infection-control and its essential role in the elimination of diseases. A primary component of this campaign educates Filipino families on the different kinds of germs and the illnesses they cause. It will then inform these families on how they can protect their health and well-being through proper hygiene practices. Shown signing the MOA were Angel Motomal, assistant brand manager, Ernest Estrada, brand manager of Reckitt Benckiser, and Carmelo Alfiler of PPS.



BEAVERTAILS' KIDS-EAT-FREE DAY

BeaverTails Pastry recently launched its Kids Eat Free Day simultaneously at all BeaverTails outlet in SM Manila and Southmall, Glorietta 4 (cinema area) Ayala Center and Festival Mall Alabang. BeaverTails are fresh, warm pastry treats made from a blend of whole wheat and other natural ingredients. Tails are served with top quality, scrumptious, sweet and savory toppings. As seen above, BeaverTails mascot served the kids their favorite Tails Chocolate Hazel Nut.

Creba shares Pag-Ibig's twin passions

BY CHARLIE V. GORAYEB

National President
Chamber of Real Estate and Builders
Associations

We certainly share Pag-Ibig Fund's twin visions or "passions" of making home acquisition affordable to its members and making housing finance sustainable, as articulated by the Fund's president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo in his speech before Creba's 6th monthly business meeting.

And, undoubtably, we likewise share Mr. Crisostomo's confidence that "continuing dialogue and cooperation" between Pag-Ibig Fund and Creba, "along with the whole-hearted support of President Macapagal and Secretary Defensor, can only result in the fulfillment of our shared vision."

Long before the advent of the Macapagal administration, it will be recalled, Creba had come up with a comprehensive package of housing reforms that aims to make home acquisition affordable not only to Pag-Ibig members, but also to the rest of the millions of homeless Filipino families. We have discussed with government authorities the main features of the Creba home financing scheme that envisions a large pool of funds with the least call on government budgetary

outlays for a sustained and systematic response to the growing homelessness in this country.

Creba's proposal seeks to provide an aggressive, effective response to the housing needs of both members and nonmembers of the Pag-Ibig Fund, the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

The plan calls for the institution of both primary and secondary home mortgage financing for the primary production of some 500,000 housing units yearly, especially for the low-income and underprivileged homeless.

The chamber has called and continues to call on the government to adopt this integrated approach to housing finance and mount a systematic housing program amid an increasing backlog of housing units, now estimated to be 4.5 million units.

During a recent meeting between President Macapagal and business leaders, Creba had occasion to reiterate its continuing call for "a total, systematic and long-term approach to the crisis of homelessness."

Only last month, Creba signed an agreement with National Housing Authority general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan for Creba members to undertake joint-venture socialized

housing projects with the NHA for low-income families. Pamintuan viewed the NHA-Creba agreement as part of the President's "healing mission" under the government's program for the poor and the underprivileged sector. The NHA will provide equity participation of up to 40 percent of the joint-venture housing projects.

In his speech, Crisostomo enumerated Pag-Ibig's moves to provide financing to a number of housing projects under various programs and schemes, seeking the production of thousands of units in the next few years. For their part, the SSS and the GSIS will undertake their own separate housing programs. In other words, each institution will do its own part in the provision of housing for our people.

Why not place the government's housing effort—now scattered or diffused among a number of agencies running in different directions with their own disparate charters—under a unified command to save time, consolidate all available resources, capabilities and facilities, and thus, ensure a much higher level of flexibility and efficiency in the planning and management of the housing program?

In the past 11th Congress, we supported the passage of a bill creating a Department of Housing and Urban

Development, and recommended a number of revisions to further ensure a unified approach to the housing problem. Secretary Defensor was a co-sponsor of the measure during his term as congressman. On top of the amendments to the DHUD bill, Creba had repeatedly urged the government to consider its proposal for a comprehensive home financing scheme as a most vital component to the housing program.

We need not overemphasize the importance of responding to the societal needs of the huge homeless sector, and availing of the multiplied effects of housing development on other industries and sectors, especially the manufacturers of basic building materials, the construction sector and the large technical and professional services group, not to mention its impact on the creation of job opportunities. We have to recognize housing, as economists do, as an effective pump-primer of the national economy.

Yes, Creba has all along shared Pag-Ibig Fund's twin visions of affordable home acquisition and sustainable housing finance. In fact, these comprise the mainstay, the gutsy-grit of Creba's continuing advocacy. Pag-Ibig Fund's twin vision may be properly called Creba's twin passions.

Valencia back as RGV Group chief executive

AFTER COMPLETING 14 years in politics, former Oriental Mindoro representative and governor, Rodolfo G. Valencia now assumes the post of chief executive officer and chair of the RGV Group.

As new CEO, Valencia vows to participate again in the local and international property market and support the housing development program of the national government.

RGV Group is composed of about 30 corporations engaged in the acquisition, development and marketing of real estate properties such as condominiums, resorts, industrial estates, commercial centers and memorial parks.

Its subsidiary, RGV Real Estate Center is the synthesis of expertise, experience and track record accumulated for about 25 years of active operations in real estate and land development.

It is considered as the only one-stop-shop real estate center serving its clients through general consultancy, marketing and brokerage, finance sourcing and management, architecture and engineering, research, planning and studies, legal research, tax consultancy and documentation, surveying and appraisal and advertising and promotions.

Valencia intends to extend full support to President Macapagal's program on housing, particularly in the development of multi-story, high-rise residential buildings for low-income families in Metro Manila.

Valencia was past president of Philippine Association of Realtors Boards (Parib), Manila Realtors Board, and Philippine Council for Planning and Housing, and one of the few awardees elevated to the Parib Hall of Fame.

A 1983 awardee of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines, Valencia oversaw the entire Region 4 tourism development efforts as chair of the Southern Tagalog Tourism Council.

Rescop and the real estate industry

BY FLORENTINO S. DULALIA JR.

MOST of us may have, in one way or another, dealings with the real estate industry—house and lot purchase, business related dealings or acquisitions, even office space/residential or apartment rentals. What makes it a universal activity is that shelter for home or a place for business or other related activities is one of a person's basic needs. It may even be deemed more important to satisfy than love. It is, thus, no surprise that anywhere in the world, the real estate industry thrives to satisfy this particular need.

The beginning and growth of the industry, though, followed a trail of such disorder and irregularity, even in this country. The government then encouraged the establishment of real estate associations as an aid to regulating and monitoring its practitioners. Later, a realty council was established to help the government lay down the rules and processes for real estate transactions for the growth of the trade and for public protection.

Under Department Order 97, Series of 1992, the trade and industry department created the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop). The department order was later amended (DO 122, 1993), to enhance the functions of the council and to authorize it to admit new members. The Rescop is composed of the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Consultants Inc. (Iprec), Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers Inc. (Iprea), Philippine Association of Realtors Boards Inc. (Parib), Real Estate Brokers



NEW LAGUNA BELAIR III HOMES

Audrey, left, and Daphne are two of the American-style model homes of Laguna BelAir III, the newest expansion phase of the popular township of housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. Audrey is a two-bedroom bungalow with a 51-square-meter floor area. Daphne, on the other hand, is a twin-level home with four bedrooms and a floor area of 105 sq. m. Among the new improved features of the Laguna BelAir III showcase homes are higher ceilings, a porch, a maid's room, an extra toilet and bath, an enhanced kitchen layout and a provision for a carport.

Belvedere Enterprises Inc., a leading distributor of high-end bathroom and kitchen furnishings, said Delta Synergy is now being preferred by contractors, engineers and architects because European-style fixtures are the trend among construction professionals now.

Belvedere Enterprises president Ramon Ronquillo said the Delta Synergy line has a more streamlined look which allows users to experiment on the interiors of kitchens and bathrooms.

Homeowners also enjoy Delta Synergy's other features such as ceramic or stainless steel ball valve, which does not wear out like the conventional rubber gasket to prevent leaks and drips, the convenience of a single faucet handle that dispenses hot or cold water at a mere turn.

and its five-year warranty on function and finish.

"When a customer makes a mistake of buying inferior quality fixtures because they are cheap, they end up spending more money in the long run for its maintenance or replacements since faucets and showerheads are permanent fixtures in the house," Ronquillo said.

Thus, he said, was the reason he strongly adheres to an iron-clad policy of selling only high-end bathroom and kitchen furnishings like imported ceramic tiles from Europe, showerheads, kitchen sinks and faucets which should comply with Belvedere's standards of durability and style. And the Delta Synergy line is one brand that measures up to the expectations.

"With inferior fixtures, not only do the customers lose money, they also lose their trust in the store, so we believe that providing top-of-the-line fixtures like Delta Synergy plays a vital part in our business," he stressed.

Builders prefer Delta Synergy

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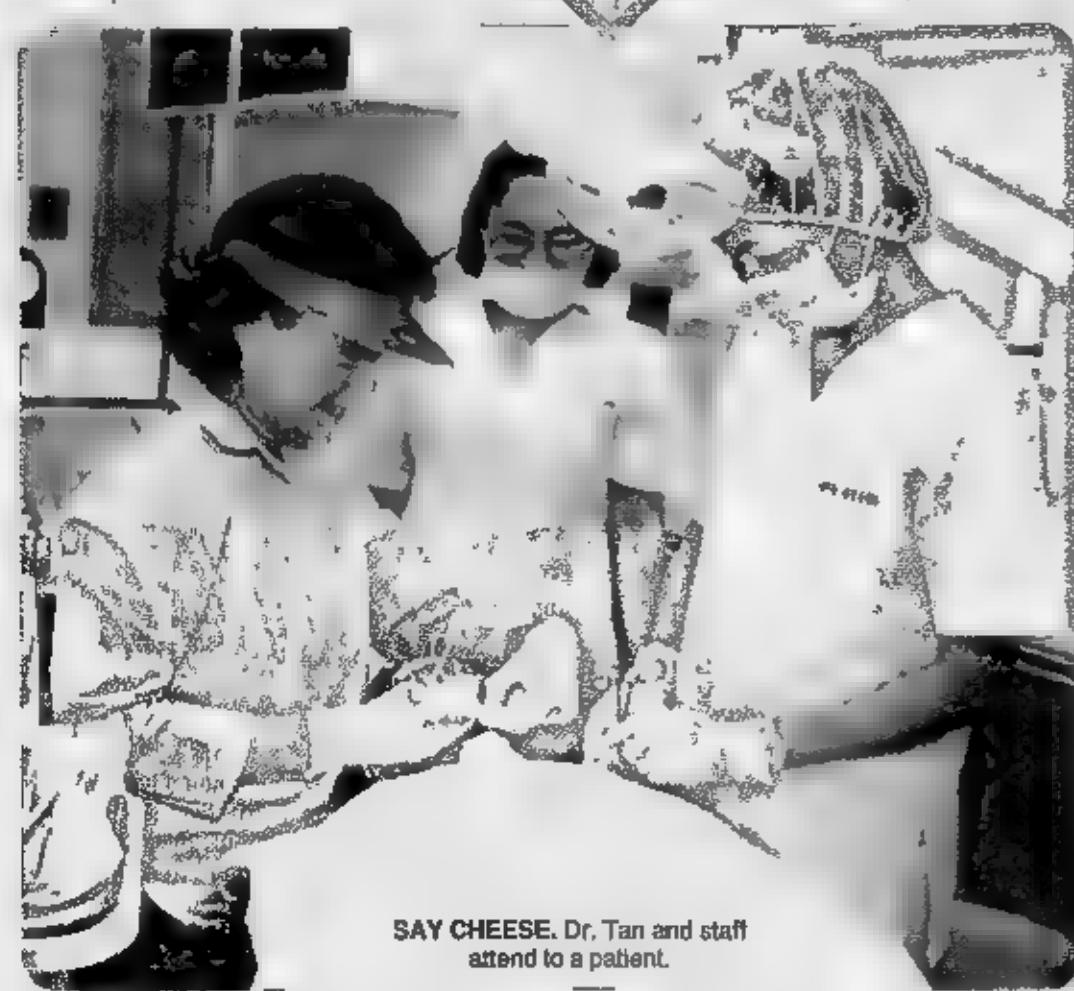
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LIFESTYLE

CHIEF BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



SAY CHEESE. Dr. Tan and staff attend to a patient.

Look, Ma, an ortho in the mall!

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

NOT all children are blessed with pearly white teeth and a killer smile. For some kids, monthly visits to the orthodontist are an integral part of growing up. Up until a few years ago, a visit to the ortho with your child meant sitting in the dentist's waiting room, twiddling thumbs or leafing through the pages of a dog-eared magazine or book.

Things have gotten better. The concept of ambulatory health care has come to many of Metro Manila's malls so, while your child is having his or her braces adjusted, you can do the groceries, buy a book or window shop, all at one stop.

Among the pioneers in ambulatory health care situated in shopping malls in the Philippines is Clinica Manila, which opened its doors in SM Megamall in the mid 1990s. Nearby Robinsons Galleria also has several dental and medical clinics in what can be called a health zone, located on the

third floor of the shopping mall. Majority of the practitioners specialize in dermatology, general dentistry or orthodontics. The set-up is such that doctors and dentists have individual clinics, quite different from the usual one-stop medical centers like Clinica Manila and, more recently, Healthway Medical Clinics.

The Healthway

Medical Clinic in Festival Mall Alabang is one of the few health care establishments that can boast of a full range of services, including a large, comfortable clinic dedicated to general dentistry and orthodontics. Healthway, a subsidiary of Vista Healthcare Asia based in Singapore, is now the largest ambulatory health-care provider in the country. Healthway has several branches in Metro Manila—at SM North Edsa in Quezon City, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt in Makati, in Binondo and in Biñan, Laguna. Majority of the Healthway Medical Centers have a full complement of medical services. Some branches, like the ones in Alabang Town Center, SM North Edsa and Festival Mall are open even on Sundays. When the malls are open on holidays, some of the Healthway branches do likewise.

Within the Healthway clinic at Festival Mall are the offices of doctors Rody Tan, Ma. Jocelyn "Joji" Tan and Rosa Singson Ledesma. Both Tan and Ledesma specialize in general dentistry while Joji Tan is the orthodontist.

Orthodontics is the branch of dentistry that specializes in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities. The

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What is your body type?

TWO months ago, as I was walking down the famous white-sand beach of Boracay, I played a little game to pass the time. From behind the anonymity of my sunglasses, I was categorizing every person I saw into three basic body types. The reason I was playing the body type game was because someone had recently asked me why he wasn't getting the same results as his friend who had started lifting weights at the same time. One of the answers I gave him was he did not have the same body type as his friend.

Body types

The concept that all bodies are a combination or variation of three basic body types is called somatotyping. The three body types are endomorph, mesomorph and ectomorph.

A male endomorph is heavy-set, stocky and naturally strong (picture an ox). This type of male body will easily put on muscle but will just as easily put on fat so it tends to be bulky rather than chiseled. A female endomorph is rounded, soft, voluptuous and also easily gains weight.

Male and female mesomorphs have athletic-looking bodies. They don't have to try too hard to look like they are in shape because they are naturally muscular and they tend to maintain their weight easily.

Ectomorphs are the long, lean and lanky type. They have a high metabolic rate and can usually eat whatever they want without gaining weight. They have very little fat but they also don't have much muscle. They are small-boned with slim arms and legs.

Variations

Most of us are variations of the three body types. Some people have an upper body that is ectomorphic and a lower body that is endomorphic. In other words, a slim upper body and a more fat-prone lower body. This is also called a pear shape. Other people are the opposite.

They are apple-shaped with endomorphic upper bodies and ectomorphic lower bodies. They are the ones who store fat easily in the upper body while their lower bodies remain slim.

Sometimes the variation is not as clear-cut as having one body type for the upper body and another for the lower. There are ecto-mesos who have all-around wiry bodies (slim but muscular) and there are also ecto-endos who have slender but soft and rounded bodies.

Height has nothing to do with body type even though we tend to think of skinny people (ectomorphs) as being tall and heavy-set people (endomorphs) as being short. For instance, my sister and I are both the same height and size but she is a mesomorph while I am an ecto-endo.

Genetics and body type

We inherit our body types from our parents who, in turn, inherited theirs from their parents. That's why our bodies tend to be combinations of body types.

Since families customarily take their summer vacations together, I saw examples of this in the living flesh in Boracay. For example, I saw a family where the first son had an ectomorphic body (like the mother) and the second son had

WELL AND GOOD

Tina
Aboitiz Juan



an endomorphic body (like the father). The daughter was clearly of the mesomorph persuasion so I figured she must look like one of the grandparents.

Body type aside, one of my other observations is that slim parents tend to have slim children while overweight parents more often than not have overweight children. The slim families are usually involved in doing something physical like playing volleyball, riding a bike or swimming while the overweight families were invariably eating something fattening (ice cream, soft drinks, potato chips) as they sat or lay on the sand. If they were walking, they were generally munching their food. While genetics plays a role in whether we will be overweight or not, one has to ask whether family exercise and eating habits is as big a factor, if not bigger.

Sports and body type

Athletes come in all shapes and sizes though certain body types tend to excel in specific sports. Ectomorphs do well in endurance sports like long-distance running. Mesomorphs shine in sports that require power and speed like sprinting. And endomorphs stand out in sports or team positions that require bulk. The next time you watch a basketball game, see if you can identify the three body types from among the team players.

Can you change your body type?

You cannot change your body type in the sense that an endomorph will always have a greater propensity to put on weight compared to a mesomorph or ectomorph. But you can change it in the sense that the endomorph is not doomed to being overweight as long as he or she takes extra effort to watch calorie and fat intake and exercise regularly, unlike the other two body types that have a greater caloric and exercise leeway.

The guy who asked me the question that inspired this column is an ectomorph while his friend is a mesomorph. It doesn't take a whole lot of analysis to figure out his friend will see faster results in terms of more muscle bulk and definition. The ectomorphic guy will have to be more patient, work twice as hard and be realistic about the results because he cannot compare himself to his mesomorphic friend.

All body types can gain or lose weight but the degree and rate at which they do varies. For example, all body types will become shadows of their former selves after spending a year at a World War II Holocaust-type concentration camp, but the ecto's will get to the skeletal state much more rapidly. The endos and mesos may

survive longer because they have greater fat and muscle mass. Upon return to a normal environment, all body types will gain weight, but the endos will do so faster than the other two.

Body type vs body shape

Body type and body shape are different things. All three body types can come in four body shapes. Borrowing the definition of Edward Jackowski, author of "Escape Your Shape," the four shapes are the cone, spoon, ruler and hourglass. The cone has wider shoulders than hips and is commonly found in men. The spoon has narrower shoulders than hips and is usually found in women, though I personally know about three men with this shape. The ruler is straight up-and-down. Shoulders and hips are proportioned, but there is hardly an indentation for the waist. The hourglass is strictly a female shape. Shoulders and hips have the same measurement, but there is a dramatic indentation in the waistline.

The terms "apples and pears" are usually used to describe fat distribution patterns. Apples have fat-prone upper bodies while pears have fat-prone lower bodies. The four shapes mentioned above describe skeletal structure. You

cannot change skeletal structure, but you can manipulate the muscles on top of your bones to look like you have changed your shape.

Attention all gym owners and managers: Life Fitness Academy is back! This two-day seminar will be held on July 12 and 13 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. David Welsh, one of the industry's leading management presenters, will talk on "Creating a Winning Team, Success through Effective People Management." Call 826-0751/2781

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Red Cross CPR Certification on July 21 at the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman campus. CPR certification is a requirement for those taking the American Council on Exercise Examinations on Oct. 27. Call 842-0567

Next week: Exercising for your body type and shape

Please write me at PDI Lifestyle or e-mail fitness@ibm.net

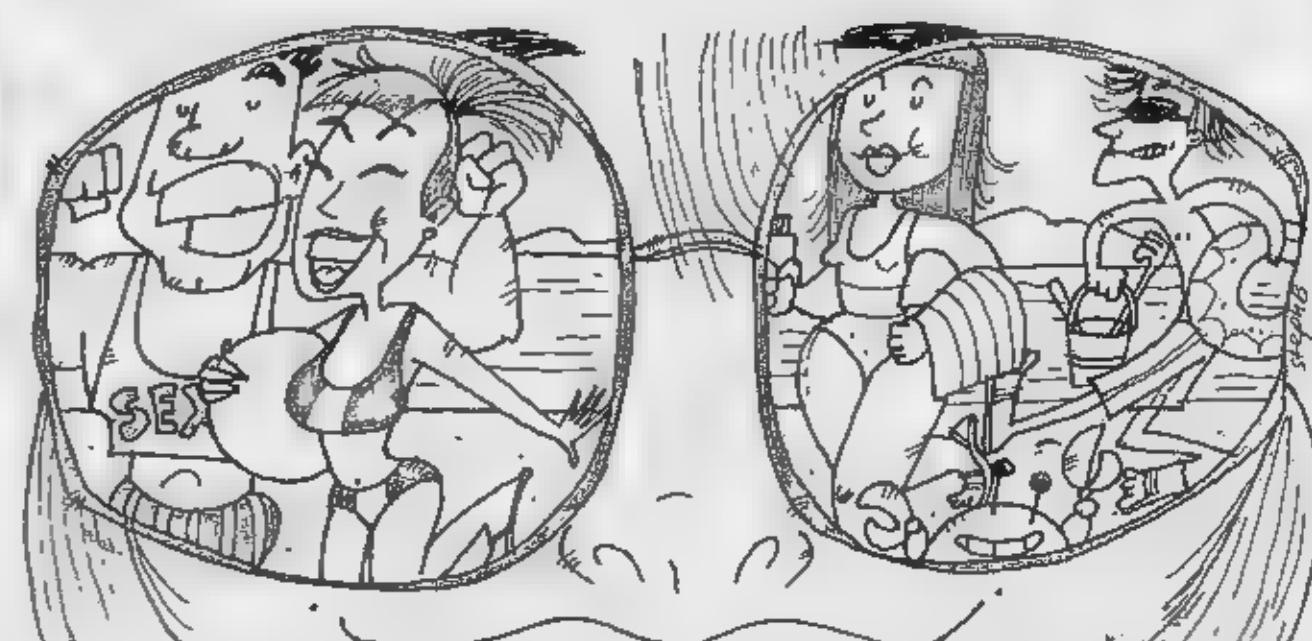
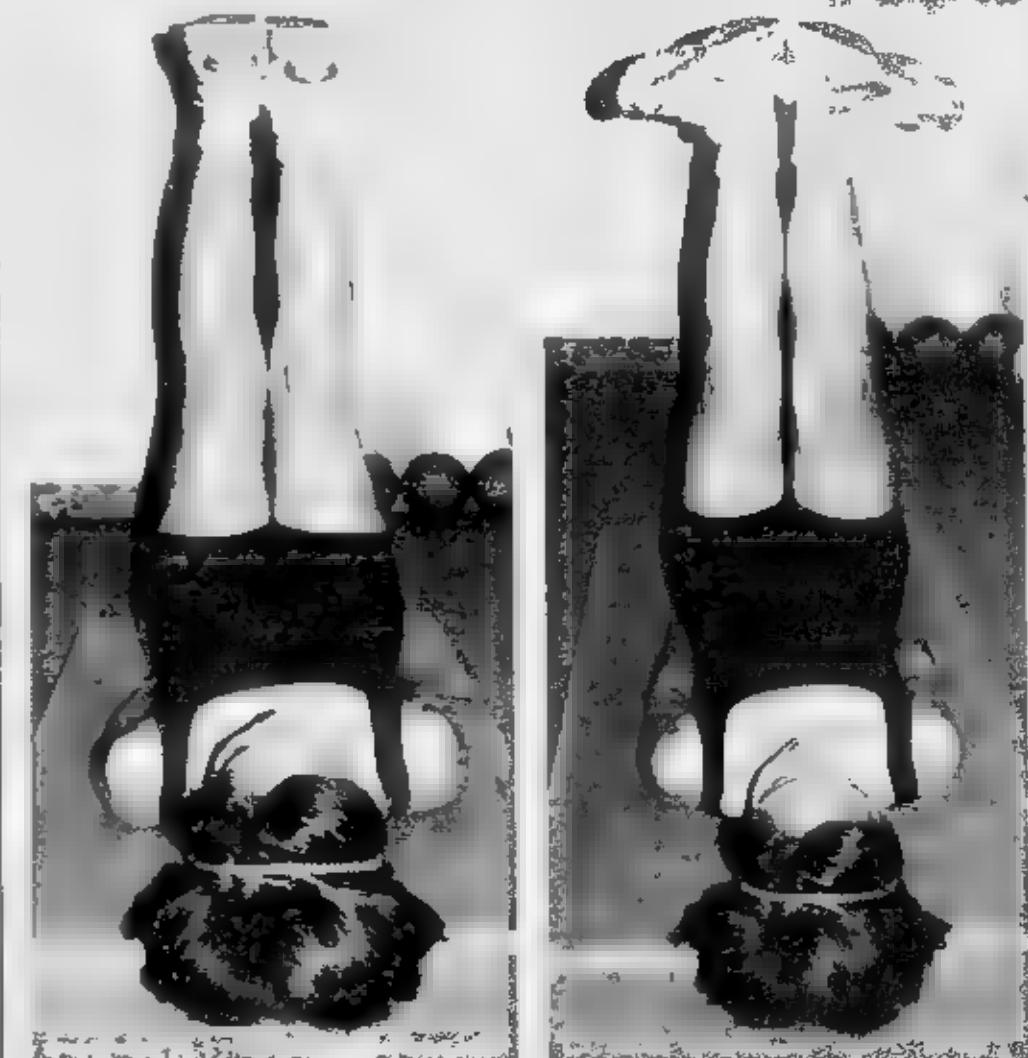


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS: CHITO VECINA

Lying hip rotation

THE NEW York City Ballet Workout inspired this exercise. It tones the muscles of the buttocks and inner thighs. It is called "hip rotation" because you rotate the leg outward at the hip joint.

Equipment:

None

Exercise technique:

1. Lie on your back with your legs together and straight above your hips.

2. Flex your feet so your heels are pointing to the ceiling.

3. Keeping your ankles together, squeeze your buttocks and inner thighs so that your

legs rotate at the hip joint and your toes are now facing away from your body.

4. Release your muscles and return to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Don't focus on moving your toes outward. Instead, focus on contracting your buttocks and inner thigh muscles to rotate your legs for you.

2. If it hurts your knees, modify by not rotating outward as much. If it still bothers your knees, avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:

Do 10-15 repetitions.

New test could lead to early detection of cancer

TWO of the world's leading experts in cancer diagnosis, Dr. Kun O'Neill and Dr. Byron Kerr Murray, were in Manila recently to talk on new developments in cancer detection and management.

Dr. O'Neill, a professor of microbiology at Brigham Young University for the past 19 years, discussed results of his research on a diagnostic and prognostic test for breast cancer. His research on thymidine kinase (TK) showed that TK levels were significantly elevated in the blood serum of patients with different types of tumors, compared to noncancer patients' serum. The study also indicated that breast cancer stage was directly related to serum TK levels.

Results suggested that by using TK as a monitor for cancer patients, it was possible to identify which patients would suffer early relapse.

This could allow therapy to begin before the disease has recurred, thus, greatly enhancing survival and tumor management.

Through TK levels in primary tumors, it might be possible to predict accurately which patients would go experience a recurrence of the disease.

A major drawback of the research is that the TK assay is complex, difficult to perform and requires highly skilled personnel to obtain accurate and reproducible results. O'Neill has developed a more accurate and sensitive assay for TK, a monoclonal antibody, that allows the use of the TK assay in most clinical laboratories (O'Neill has recently obtained a patent on this monoclonal technology).

The new assay method would make it possible to accurately assess the progress of breast cancer patients by serum and tumor measurements. The assay would also be a valuable aid in cancer screening and could help save many lives.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Who are the people behind MEDICard?

MEDICard is the brainchild of its President and Chairman of the Board, Dr. Nicomed Montoya, one of the country's top urologists. Unlike other Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), MEDICard is being run and operated by doctors. Other respected Board of Directors are Dr. Concepcion S. Montoya, Dr. Augusto P. Litorum, Dr. Rafael S. Recto, Dr. Martesio C. Perez, Dr. Belen H. Pe, Dr. Eduardo R. Mercado and Reynaldo S. Tanjaneo, CPA. Likewise, most of its personnel (those you get in touch with daily) are also from the allied medical field. This is an advantage in a sense that your needs are being addressed on a professional level and at the same time extended the compassion of trained medical personnel who understand the trouble and pains of illnesses or injuries.

Meet your MEDICard Team



MEDICard's Pediatrician at the Medical City Satellite Clinic is Dr. Anna Liza T. Vidal-Geling. Doc Anna is a UST 1991 graduate with specialization training from the Makati Medical Center. She is a member of the Philippine Pediatric Society and has been practicing her specialization since 1995. She spends most of her free time enjoying movies with her husband Romeo Anthony and reading books. You can visit Doc Anna Liza at the MEDICard -Medical City Satellite Clinic every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 noon to 6 PM.

Contract Signing



We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. WE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendola. TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.



Osang forces us to confront our own hypocrisy

EVEN before I personally met Rosanna Roces in 1999, I already noticed how different she is from the stereotype of a sex goddess in the local movie world. She struck me as witty, brutally frank, mentally honest and completely uninhibited. I was curious to know whether that personality was just for public consumption, for show, and may not necessarily reflect anything more than mere movie propaganda.

A hint that this was no ordinary showgirl came when I read a lengthy interview of her in a major national newspaper. On the second page of that feature story, Osang mentioned about soul mates and said she knew about that concept because she had read it in my book "Soul Mates, Karma and Reincarnations." In my opinion, anybody who reads and appreciates my books and other writings cannot be an ordinary person. He or she must definitely be a very progressive and an unorthodox thinker.

From that time on I wanted to meet Osang in person. I had a hundred and one questions to ask her. Shortly after that article about her came out in the papers, I learned from her psychic friend from Binngonan, Miquelito Mindab, that she was also very interested in meeting the author of those books on paranormal phenomena and Philippine mysticism. I didn't realize she was deeply interested in those subjects.

During her first visit to my office in Makati, we hit it off right away. She was very friendly, very casual, exuberant and full of questions. She wanted to know everything about spirit guides, angels, elves and many other paranormal and spiritual topics. I was completely taken by surprise at her intense interest in these things. And she has also read the life of Helena P. Blavatsky, founder of the worldwide organization known as Theosophy. She told me Madame Blavatsky is her spirit guide. This was a big surprise for me. But this was confirmed by Mindab and, two years later, by another psychic and clairvoyant, Linda Ferido.

To many people, Osang is simply a sex symbol, a controversial movie star who readily undresses before the camera without any hint of embarrassment or hesitation. Some people have found fault with her for this, saying that she does it merely to attract attention. But I cannot agree.

Truly human

Even before I met Osang personally, I already suspected she was more than just a pretty face, or a sensual body or a witty mind. When I personally met and talked to her at length, I confirmed my suspicion that there was more to Osang than meets the eye.

Despite her lack of higher education and intellectual sophistication, she exhibits a keen native intelligence and unusual mental honesty that is utterly lacking in most people in that profession.

Actually, I believe that Osang is teaching the Filipino people certain bitter lessons about life, honesty and reality. By being brutally frank, honest and totally candid about herself, she is teaching us to look at reality as it is, without rationalization or bias. Acceptance of the truth, no matter how ugly it is, is a sign of wisdom. Being true to one's self is a condition sine qua non of being true to others.

As William Shakespeare said in "Hamlet," "Above all, to thine own self be true! And it must follow as the night the day! Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Most of us cannot confront our deepest fears, weaknesses, desires and sexual fantasies and put them up in the open, to be seen by others. Osang teaches us that there's nothing to fear as long as we are truthful and honest about them.

That's why Osang can say whatever she has in mind without any inhibition at all. She can completely undress before an audience without an iota of embarrassment at all. She finds nothing wrong with it as long as it is the naked truth. Probably her charming and honest manner is what enables us to look at her naked body without blushing or feeling that we are violating her or peeping at her, like looking surreptitiously between the legs of a woman in miniskirt in a jeepney, for example.

In a country like the Philippines, where religious, social and interpersonal hypocrisy is the norm, where everything unorthodox or sexual

is considered immoral, it is refreshing to have in our midst somebody who forces us to confront our hypocrisy and mental dishonesty.

I'm sure that deep inside every Filipina woman's subconscious mind, there is a secret or suppressed desire to do what Osang does, to have a beautiful body,

acquire many admirers of the opposite sex and have the guts to display that body openly.

And I'm sure that in the minds of every red-blooded Filipino male, there is a subconscious hidden fantasy to go to bed with Osang and make love to her passionately. But this is something we cannot

admit to ourselves, much less to our spouse or the general public. And so we look at such a woman with disdain and scorn, which is really a psychological defense mechanism.

Instead of condemning or criticizing a woman like Osang, we should perhaps look at ourselves, be thankful to her for remind-

ing us that being truly human with very human desires is not being bad at all. And we should perhaps tell all her detractors, quoting Jesus Christ, "He who is without sin, cast the first stone."

E-mail the author at jltcaucom. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/lcaucom

INNER AWARENESS



Jaime T.
Licauco

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In a country like the Philippines, where religious, social and interpersonal hypocrisy is the norm, where everything unorthodox or sexual

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Look, Ma, an ortho in the mall!

(From page C1)

practice of orthodontics requires professional skill in the design, application and control of corrective appliances, such as braces, to bring teeth, lips and jaws into proper alignment and to achieve facial balance. All orthodontists are dentists, but only a small percentage of dentists are orthodontists. An orthodontist is a specialist in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of dental and facial irregularities.

Tan notes that most of her patients come to Healthway clinic because they aren't too comfortable in a hospital or clinic setting. "I've heard them say that they feel less tense when they are here," she says. For parents, there is also the convenience of being able to do errands while the child is having braces adjusted. "They make it a family affair," she says. "The whole family tags along mostly on weekends. They leave the patient with us and after an hour or so, come back with their shopping done." Plus, if you get to the clinic before the mall opens, the whole parking area is yours for the picking.

Do it before seven

Tan's patients vary in age from young children to teenagers to adults. Children and adults can both benefit from orthodontics because healthy teeth can be moved at almost any age. Tan says that monitoring growth and development is crucial to managing some orthodontic problems well.

The Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO), a specialty organization founded in 1980 to promote and encourage high standard of excellence in orthodontic treatment and education, recommends that all children have an orthodontic screening no later than age 7. Some orthodontic problems may be easier to correct if treated early. Waiting until all the permanent teeth have come in, or until facial growth is nearly complete, may make correction of some problems more difficult.

Tan explains that by age 7 enough permanent teeth have come in and enough jaw growth has occurred that the dentist or an orthodontist can identify current problems, anticipate future problems and alleviate parents' concerns if all seems normal. The first permanent molars and incisors have usually come in by age 7, and crossbites, crowding and developing injury-prone dental protrusions can be evaluated. Any ongoing finger sucking or other oral habits can be assessed at this time also.

According to the American Association of Orthodontists, habits like mouth breathing, thumb-sucking, finger-sucking and biting the cheek or roof of the mouth may necessitate an early orthodontic examination, as do the following signs:

- early or late loss of baby teeth
- difficulty in chewing or biting
- crowding, misplaced or blocked out teeth
- jaws that shift or make sounds
- teeth that meet abnormally or not at all, or
- jaws and teeth that are out of proportion to the rest of the face.

An orthodontic screening no later than age 7 enables the orthodontist to detect and evaluate problems, advise if treatment is necessary and determine the best time for that patient to be treated. Tan adds that an orthodontic evaluation at any age is advisable if a parent, family dentist or the patient's physician has noted a problem.

Problems to look out for

There are early warnings that may indicate a need for orthodontic treatment. "When parents come to me wondering why their kids have misaligned permanent teeth when when their kids had perfectly aligned teeth as babies, I tell them that the straight baby teeth should have been a cause for worry."

Tan advises parents to look out for the following indicators:

Crowding: Teeth may be aligned poorly because the dental arch is small and/or the teeth are large. The bone and gums over the roots of extremely crowded teeth may become thin and recede as a result of severe crowding. Impacted teeth (teeth that should have come in but have not), poor bite and undesirable appearance may all result from crowding.

Overjet or protruding upper teeth: Upper front teeth that protrude beyond normal contact with the lower front teeth are prone to injury, often indicate a poor bite of the back teeth (molars), and may mean an unevenness in jaw growth. Commonly, protruded upper teeth are associated with a lower jaw that is short in proportion to the upper jaw. Thumb and finger sucking habits can also cause a protrusion of the upper incisor teeth.

Deep overbite: A deep overbite or deep bite occurs when the lower incisor (front) teeth bite is too close or into the gum tissue behind the upper teeth. When the lower front teeth bite into the palate or gum tissue behind the upper front teeth, significant bone damage and discomfort can occur. A deep bite can also contribute to excessive wear of the incisor teeth.

Open bite: An open bite results when the upper and lower incisor teeth do not touch when biting down. This open space between the upper and lower front teeth causes all the chewing pressure to be placed on the back teeth. This excessive biting pressure and rubbing together of the back teeth makes chewing less efficient and may contribute to significant tooth wear.

Spacing: If teeth are missing or small, or the dental arch is very wide, space between the teeth can occur. The most common complaint



MALL MEDICINE. Façade of Healthway Medical Clinic at Festival Mall in Alabang



A CLEAN and spacious waiting area by the nurse's station at Healthway Medical Clinic

Currently, the most expensive treatment is within the range of P50,000-75,000. If you do preventive orthodontics and catch the defect earlier, it will even cost much less.

"We did this in order to protect both the consumers and the industry," Tan says. "All the equipment that we use is from the US plus the training that we receive." She emphasizes that the price of the equipment used for treatment makes it impossible to peg rates at such a ridiculously low level. Stories have been told of "recycled braces" and this is something that parents need to be wary about. You certainly wouldn't want another child's braces inside your child's mouth; this is one area where the practice of recycling is not advocated at all.

She stresses that there are many "quack" orthodontists who charge a fraction of the fees set by the APO for its members. "How they are able to do that is a big mystery" APO members also socialize their fees whenever necessary. When they see that the patient needs the treatment badly and cannot afford it, they do charity work from time to time. "It's best to go with an orthodontist who has been screened and certified by the APO, that way you'll have peace of mind and know that your money won't go to waste and you are being treated by someone who is competent," Tan closes. The APO has a roster of a hundred and plus members all over the country whose names and contact numbers can be accessed through the APO office.

It is not surprising, of course, that a highly visible ortho practice like Joji Tan's should attract a large clientele. Tan's clinic at the mall is open on weekends. How much more convenient can it be? Mom won't have to leave work, pick up her kid from school, take him to the ortho, drive him back to school and then go back to work.

Healthway Medical Clinic is at 2/L Pixieforest entrance, Festival Supermall, Alabang. The Association of Philippine Orthodontists (APO), may be reached at 890-2824 or 890-2832.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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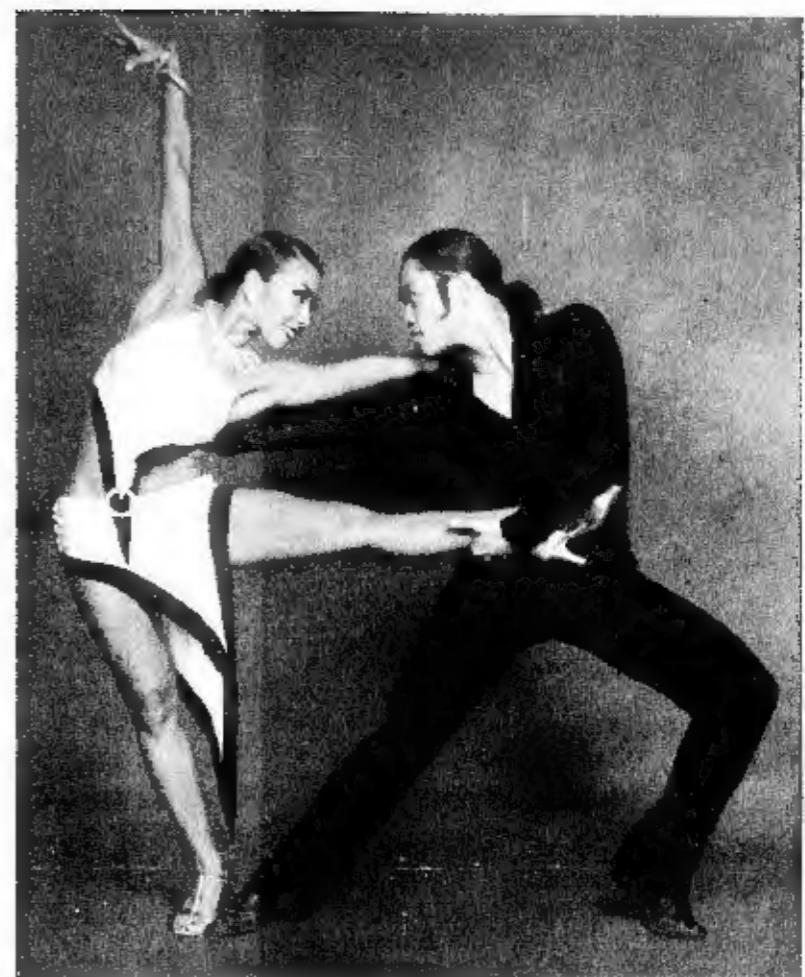
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EDNA Ledesma and new partner

Five swinging years and still growing

BY BECKY GARCIA

FIVE years have passed since I founded and organized the Dancesport Council of the Phils., and I must say we have covered a lot of ground. Dancesport has rapidly developed all over the country through the workshops and regional competitions we have conducted. Dancesport athletes are also multiplying.

The active participation of students and local schools with the support of the Department of Culture, Education and Sports and the Commission on Higher Education has also boosted the promotion of dancesport. Even teachers are encouraged by the DECS to take up dancesport workshops conducted by foreign coaches where they learn the proper techniques and syllabus. Some schools have included dancesport as part of their curriculum in Physical Education and I



THE AUTHOR at the IDST Annual General Meeting, Lausanne, Switzerland

hope one day the DECS will require all the public and private schools to implement the inclusion of dancesport.

Twice the audience

Last year in October saw the 4th National Championship with over 200 couples participating all over the country. This is a good sign that more and more enthusiasts are becoming aware of dancesport. We also got an audience double the number of the past years. One day our sport will become as popular as other sports like basketball and boxing. We brought in the Asian Dancesport Federation president and Presidium member of IDSF Mr. Keiji Ukai from Japan to head the panel of adjudicators.

This year in March the DSCP staged the 2nd Quarterly National Ranking and Competition-Alaxan Cup at the George Dewey Theatre in

Subic with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority headed by chair Felicito Payumo. We brought in Scott Todd, Scandinavian Ten Dance champion, to conduct the lecture, workshops and adjudicating together with two other adjudicators from Taipei and Hong Kong. Italian Professional Rising Star Standard champions Mirko and Marika Sellini did a beautiful demonstration show during the competition.

We are holding the 5th Midyear Ranking & Competition-Alaxan Cup on July 14. We have invited Wolfgang Opitz, coach of all world-class dancers and champions, to conduct the workshops and adjudicate. We are lucky to have such a prominent name in the dancesport world. The winners of the 5th Midyear Ranking & Competition in Standard and Latin will be sent to the IDSF Asia-Pacific Championship in Sydney, Australia on Sept. 22.

Our 5th National Dancesport Championship this year will be held on Sept. 29, also at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. To conduct the workshops on Sept. 27 and 28 and to adjudicate will be the UK Professional Open Rising Star champions and European Ten Dance champions John Bymes and Jane Lyttleton. The champions in the Youth, Standard and Latin will represent the Philippines in the IDSF Asian Dancesport Championship 2001 in Taipei on Oct. 13 and 14.

In the international scene, we have also made our presence felt. The Philippines has been a regular member since 1997 of two powerful world bodies—the Lausanne-based International Dancesport Federation—the amateur body which was successful in getting ballroom dancing recognized by the International Olympic Committee as a sport, hence the word Dancesport and the World Dance & Dancesport Council, the professional body based in England.

Since then, I have been attending the Annual General Meeting of both bodies represented by the Dancesport Council to IDSF meetings and the Professional Dance Teachers Association of which I also organized to represent the PDTA to WD & DSC meetings.

World-ranking list

We were lucky that the Philippines was chosen by IDSF as one of the 20 member countries out of 75 all over the world to send a Latin American entry, Belinda Adora and Genice Marquez, to the World Games in Akita, Japan. As what IDSF sports director Heinz Späcker said, the Philippines was chosen because it is now in the World Ranking list. What a big leap in five years. Philippines is also now ranking 4th in the Asia-Pacific Region and 3rd in Asia.

Just recently in the 6th Singapore Superstar International Dancesport Championship 2001, our Standard Amateur Couple Edgar Borromeo and Ana Dulce Yango won the gold in the Asia-Pacific Closed competition and 4th place in the Open competition. While the Latin Amateur Couple Edna Ledesma and new partner Brian Lee Callo won the bronze both in the Asia-Pacific Closed Competition and Open Competition, competing against entries from South Africa, Australia, Kazakhstan, Canada and other Asian countries.

Meanwhile, as we eagerly await the announcement of dancesport as a medal sport in the Olympics in the year 2008, we continuously promote dancesport all over the country through the tri-media: a dancesport segment on the weekly television program "Eazy Dancing" on Channel 5 (every Sunday, 9-10 p.m.); on air via the radio program "Dancesport with Becky" (every Saturday, 2:30-4 p.m.) NBC Angel Radyo 1026 AM; and in this section whenever space allows.

We have also visited several cities of the Philippines—Cebu, General Santos, Cotabato, Davao, the Bicol region, NCR regions, conducting workshops and competitions. We hope to cover more areas of the country even as our city and regional chapters are doing their own promotion by conducting workshops with the different barangays and students of the different schools and universities in their regions.

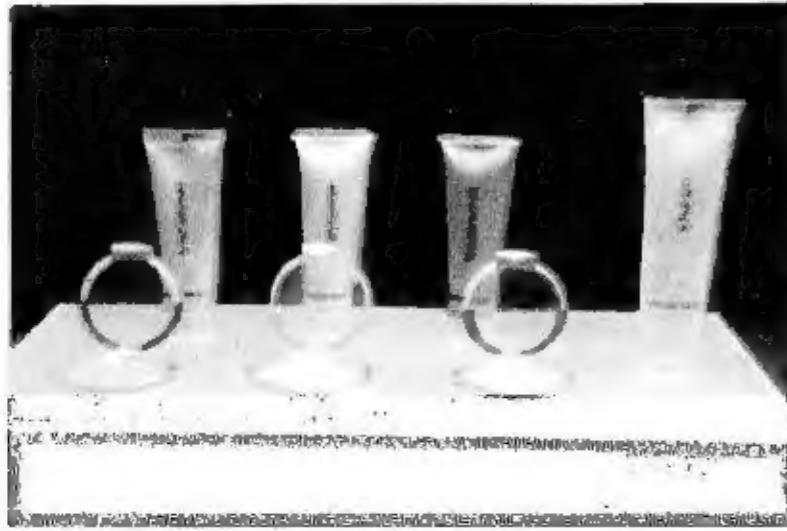
The brand-new training center and office of Dancesport Council at the Philsport Complex came about because Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason saw an urgent need for one.

This year also saw some dancesport couples changing partners. This is a good sign that more athletes are born. Unfortunately, some have been misguided by their supporters and sponsors. We just hope and pray that only good will come out of situations like this. We are also looking after our juvenile, junior and youth athletes as they will be the future of dancesport—our future Olympians.

My advice to all our members and supporters is: Let us put aside all our differences and work together toward our common goal.

ES! ONE GREAT VALUE!

SMART
Simply Amazing!



TRISHIMMER is used for the eyes, cheeks and lips



ALL-NATURAL handmade soaps have healing and soothing properties



NOT an eye-drop, but a breath freshener

Beauty and bath lines from someone not-so-anonymous

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

SURE, beauty comes from within. It radiates from having a sound disposition in life. But let's face it, it's difficult to feel beautiful when your skin is dry and flaky, your hair has split ends and your lips are constantly dry.

Model-turned-entrepreneur Tina Maristela-Ocampo knows only too well that looking good is a 24-hour job. Though the market is already saturated with products claiming to be good for your body, from your head down to your toes, Ocampo has joined the bandwagon in hopes of offering better alternatives.

Tina has come out with the apothecary line of Anonymous, the trendy chain of shops she runs with husband Ricco. "Since people are always on the go, we've developed products we feel they can use for their daily activities," she says.

Personal hygiene

When Anonymous introduced its apothecary line two years ago, the bath soaps became the top sellers. These all-natural handmade soaps are often sought for their healing and soothing properties. Made from essential oils of plants, fruits and flowers, the soaps are made exclusively for Anonymous by Nelia Silverio-Dee. Tina says each variety of soap is a product of their constant experimentation. "We tell Nelia the kind of blends and scents we want to have, and she tells us the benefits from each of them," says Tina, who's in charge of product development.

The soaps come with a little brochure explaining the ingredients used and what good each ingredient offers the consumer. For example, the peppermint oatmeal—a blend of oatmeal, peppermint, orange and lemon—soothes and stimulates dry and sensitive skin, while treating acne, dermatitis, ringworm and scabies. The papaya sliver, with papaya, oatmeal and floral fruity blends, offers a sensual fragrance and soothing aroma to calm the senses. Rosemary's baby, with basil leaves, rosemary botanicals and rosemary essentials, refreshes the skin and relieves rheumatic and muscular pains. Poppy carpe, with passion fruit oils and poppy seeds, gives a good scrub for rough parts of the body, such as calluses and knees.

Good grooming starts from the head so hair care counts the most. Since peppermint is an excellent ingredient to soothe and relax the scalp, Anonymous formulated a gentle shampoo and conditioner with peppermint. "The peppermint is combined with some gentle ingredients that you can use every day. The soothing feeling lingers for two to three minutes. After a day's work, the shampoo can actually relax you and de-stress



THE BEAUTY behind the apothecary line is Tina Maristela-Ocampo



FEMININE wipes packaged individually in sachets for traveling convenience

our clients to appreciate every item we introduce and make them believe in it. We don't want them to be overwhelmed with so many products that they get confused."

Anonymous also considers personal cleanliness that include hand cleansing gel, deodorants for men and women, breath freshener and a daily facial rinse.

Women will also love Tina for her "invention" of feminine wipes called Chick Flicks. "I'm very emphatic about this product because this has never been popularized," says Tina, who knows only too well what women need. "One study showed that urine and water mixed together elicit a foul smell." The feminine wipes have the odor-ex ingredient made from the zinc salt of ricinoleic acid, an active deodorizing substance with non-bactericidal effect. Oder-ex eliminates the odors and at the same has the CLA, a cleansing agent that kills the bacteria. Because they have no synthetic additives, the wipes do not irritate a woman's private parts. They are also mild and safe enough to use as baby wipes.

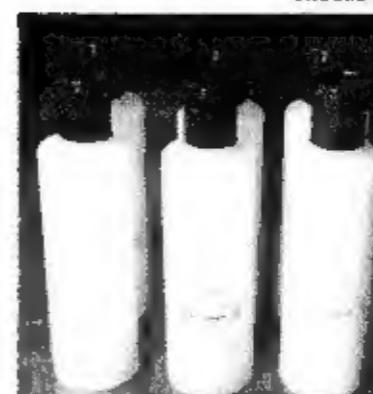
The wipes look like towelettes packaged individually in sachets for traveling convenience. "It took us six months to find the right manufacturer for the wipes," says Tina, who brings about 12 packs everywhere she goes.

Beauty enhancers

Tina has also launched a new cosmetics line—foundation for wet and dry application, trishimmer, lipstick in nude colors, lipgloss, eye shadow in pale colors.

The lipsticks, which so far have 15 types of shades, cater to all skin types—mestiza and morena. For the moisturizing lipsticks and Vita-

It's all about looking good and feeling nice from your hair down to your toes



CONDITIONER for de-tangling and moisturizing hair



MENTHOLATED shampoo for normal to dry hair

mina E, Tina chose and tested all the colors. "During our research and selection, I got five of our employees with different skin types. I had to choose a shade that will be perfect for each one.

This was how I was able to come up with all the range of colors." To name some, there's deep red no. 4 for the dark-skinned, pink no. 8 for the mestizas, and earth colors for the fair-skinned.

The trishimmer, the newest in the line, can be used three ways—for the eyes, the cheeks or the lips. It will give the skin a soft glow that lasts. It can be applied over foundation, or on bare skin. Trishimmer can be added on top of regular lipstick or eyeshadow for a shimmering effect.

Tina recalls the manufacturer gave her 30 shades of foundation and it took her two years to actually choose the good ones. "This is the foundation I can say I can use and is at par with the other prominent cosmetic names. It doesn't flake or make your face oily." The satiny smooth foundation can be used dry for a natural matte look, or wet for a sheer luminous look.

Does a person need all these products? Well, the apothecary line at Anonymous or any other store is really about feeling good because you feel clean and look beautiful more than anything else. These things bolster your well-being. "Of course, having a pleasant personality counts a lot," adds Ocampo.

A little vanity completes the picture.

Sterling service at Cooper's new salon



JAMES Cooper has opened another world-class and decadent salon. Located on the ground floor of the Arete Square Building on Congressional Avenue (tels. 927-5720/30), the salon is designed with customer pampering in mind—from the ample parking to the wooden walkway that leads into the main salon, from the cool temperature to the well thought-out sectioning of the salon.

The salon is divided into sections specifically for women, men, children and a special closed-off area for sauna and massage.

Each stylist and specialist has undergone rigid professional training and is an expert in his or her respective fields. The variety of services include haircut, hair coloring, makeup, facial, foot scrub and nail care. And as a gift, James Cooper offers special bridal packages to

make the bride even more beautiful and glowing on her day.

There's also the complimentary ginseng tea and various refreshments from the mini bar.

Men will appreciate the barbers' expertise in the men's section, whatever particular choice of haircut or style they want, complete with a face wash and massage. Free hand and back massages are also available for anyone who wants them.

The children's section is filled with toys, books and car-like kiddie barber seats.

All equipment and supplies are clean and hygienic. Combs, brushes, nail cutters, nippers and other communal equipment are soaked in Barbicide disinfectant to make sure each client gets the best and freshest of everything.



Etta's pre-mixed compact contains skin whitening powder that is effective in whitening areas of dark skin and helping prevent freckles, pimples and blackheads. Call 847-8753 or 0917-4453185.

New ways to prevent hair loss

SVENSON International offers several new products to minimize hair loss and prevent baldness from spreading.

Tricho-DHT Inhibitor has been proven effective in combating dihydrotestosterone (DHT), the main culprit in male pattern baldness. The inhibitor helps stop further hair loss and contain baldness.

Another innovation from Svenson is the Laser Hair Cell Accelerator. Developed in Germany, this treatment has shown remarkable results in hair regrowth and recovery. A special soft laser used directly on the scalp acts like a light vitamin to increase the amount and prolong the life of hair cells.

For baldness problems, the Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) is the most advanced non-surgical hair replacement technology ever developed. It is seamless, unnoticeable and totally convincing as real hair, even to a conscious probing touch.

Call the Svenson International hair and scalp clinics at 817-2260/2194 (Makati), 372-6631/6632 (QC), 2430128/244-8913 (Binondo), 842-1389/4181 (Alabang) and (092) 233-7633 (Cebu).

Please pass the iodized salt

HAVE you been putting a dash of iodized salt in your cooking?

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit reminds everyone, mothers especially, about the importance of using iodized salt: "Iodine is needed for the proper development of the brains of children," he said.

"If children are iodine-deficient, their IQ may drop by as much as 15 percent. Lack of iodine in children can also lead to hypothyroidism, which in newborn is characterized by jaundice, poor appetite, constipation, slowed bone growth. If not diagnosed and treated within a few months of birth, hypothyroidism results in mental retardation."

"In contrast, only a small amount of iodized salt every day is needed to supply the iodine requirement of the body," adds Dr. Teofilo San Luis, president of the Philippine Thyroid Association.

Secretary Dayrit said that iodine deficiency remains a public health concern in the Philippines in spite of the ASIN law passed eight years ago, which pushed for greater use of

iodized salt. Data from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) shows that 36 out of 100 children in the country are iodine-deficient.

To combat the problem, Dayrit said he has sought the cooperation of local government units to check if public markets sell iodized salt. He also launched early this week the Thyromobil campaign, with Merck Philippines Inc., the International Council for the Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (ICCID), Philippine Thyroid Association and the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Thyromobil, a specially equipped mobile laboratory for conducting iodine analysis, is in the country to survey school children in six provinces. It conducts tests of urine samples, and uses ultrasound for detecting goiter, as part of the overall effort to assess the status of iodine intake especially in children.

Data gathered by Thyromobil will be used to validate the FNRI statistics, as well as serve as the basis for future interventions to eliminate iodine deficiency disease in the country, Dayrit added.

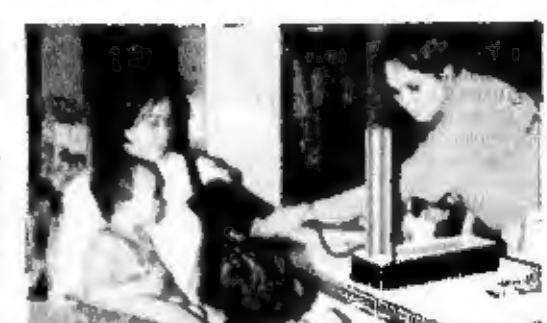
Freebies for moms and babies

KIMBIES recently provided fun and freebies to mommies and babies during a four-day event dubbed "Mommy, Kimbies and Me" at the Ever Gotesco Malls (Ortigas-Extension, Commonwealth, C.M. Recto and Grand Central).

For a minimum purchase of P100 worth of Kimbies Belt-Style, new Kimbies Plus and/or new Kimbies Diaper Pads from the booth or supermarket, consumers were entitled to join the "Pick-A-Prize" promo wherein they were able to bring home special gift items on the spot.

The purchase also entitled mommies and babies at the "O.K. (Operation Kalinga) Kay Nanay at Baby" corner to free blood pressure checkups and consultations courtesy of mom-and-child specialists. Pediatricians and Ob-gyns provided mommies with professional advice and guidelines on personal health care and proper baby care.

After the medical consultations, mommies also enjoyed a special place called the "Palit Diaper Corner" located just within the booth area where they changed their babies' diapers for free and without any hassles.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

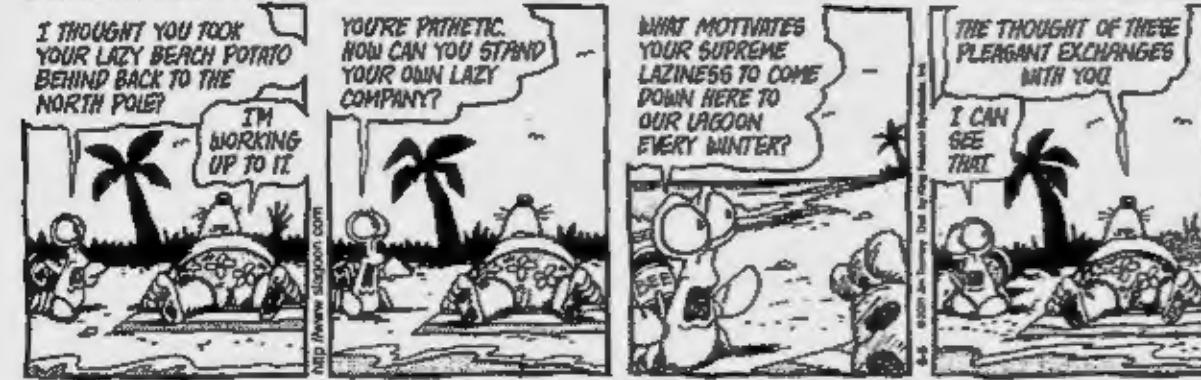


BY FRED WAGNER

PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON



BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES



BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/JEA/FEVG

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Arlo Guthrie, David Brinkley, Omar Sharif, Haley Joel Osment, Mandy Moore
Happy Birthday: You will attract love relationships and friendships with interesting people. As long as you can maintain a positive outlook, you will have continued success. If you become moody and negative, all will be lost. Hold your head high and strive to be and to do your best. The returns will be greater than you ever imagined. It's your year to put your best foot forward and reap the rewards. Your numbers: 4, 29, 30, 31, 44, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't become involved in debates that could make you look bad at work and lead to the unemployment line. It's wise to work in large groups where you can hide in the crowd.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to expand your horizons. Foreign cultures will be most intriguing and open your eyes to new ways of doing things. Your observations will change your opinions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make extra cash if you put your creative ideas to good use. Present your work to someone who is willing to help you develop your interests. Avoid family disputes.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful that others don't convince you to spend money on causes you're not sure of. Take a look at personal papers and be sure that everything is up to date.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be in a strange mood concerning your personal life. Don't be too quick to judge others. You may be the one who's at fault.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Overtime will pay off. Your boss will be impressed with your loyalty, and advancement will be yours. Mix business with pleasure, and you will discover a new and exciting relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Put money into personal investments. Start with changing your own image. You need to feel good about yourself if you want others to respond to you in a positive manner.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let your family get to you. Socialize with friends and avoid discussions that will only result in major upsets at home. Take your time to think things through before making decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to interact with friends who have a lot to offer. Your desire to learn and expand your interests will lead to unusual activities. It's time to broaden your horizons.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let go of your past and you'll be surprised how much you can accomplish. Your emotional well-being depends on your ability to see all the possibilities. Be positive and go after your goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your charisma will attract attention. Use an intellectual approach to get the best results. You're in the mood to spend some time with your lover.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get trapped in other people's melodrama. You can offer suggestions, but let them work things out on their own. You could easily ruin an important friendship. Think before you take action.

BEN



LOVETTS

BY DANIEL SHELTON

HIL AND LOIS



WIRK

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS



LOVETTS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER

TULDOK



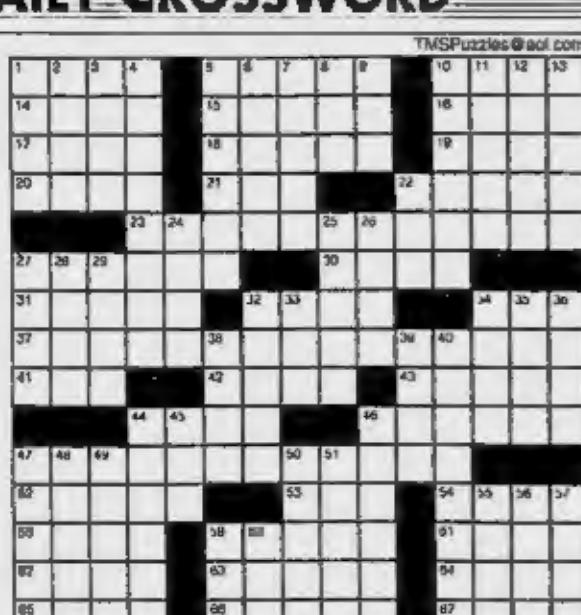
LOVETTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS



By Alan P. Olachwang Huntington Beach, CA

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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BIRTHDAY BABY

You're inquisitive to say the least. You will have your finger in every pie, always looking for something new and exciting. You're a handful to take care of but a pleasure to know. You'll always be one step ahead of the crowd.

LOVETTS



FIRST CUTTING. Volunteer members of the Supporters of the WWF at their first workshop in Anilao.



GETTING the diving gear ready.

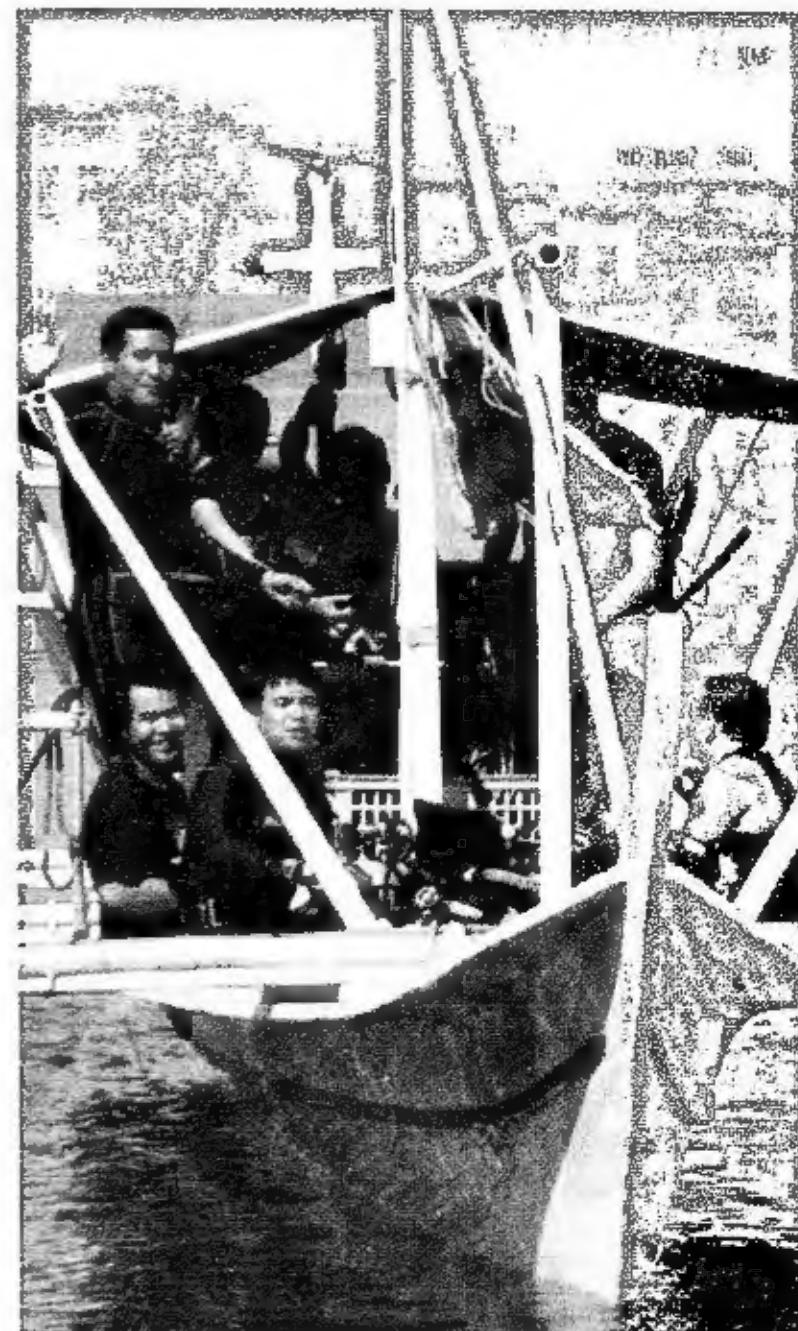
Watching over nature by the threatened sea



EACH of us has a connection with Mother Earth. To a certain degree we are affected by the changes that happen in the world. More importantly, this link enables us to empathize with nature and move us into action. Some of us are so moved as to be called to work full-time in the field of conservation. Others, because of their important roles in society, must contribute to this cause in some other way.

The Supporters of World Wildlife Fund membership program has been envisioned as a venue for people of different backgrounds to pitch in on the cause of environmental conservation, in whatever way they can. In April 2000 WWF-Philippines started to create an individual membership base that would harness the time, talent and resources of ordinary individuals towards a common goal: "To stop and eventually reverse the accelerating degradation of the environment in the Philippines."

Last May, "Earthwatch by the Sea," held at Balai Resort, Anilao



OUT TO SEA. Members are taken on a diving trip so they can observe conservation efforts in marine biodiversity.

was launched as the SWWF's first membership activity, to give members an idea of the kind of work that is being done in marine biodiversity conservation. During the two-day workshop, members learned about the basics of marine ecology. They were also taught how to identify basic life forms of corals and reef fishes.

A total 15 supporters signed up for the event, many of whom came from the private sector, such as Shell Philippines Exploration, Citibank and Rómulo Mabanta law offices. Team members of the Balayan Bay project were on hand to share with the participants their experiences in the field as well as their own insights toward conservation in the bay. The group was also privileged to have Mon Miclat, former director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, to share his expertise in identifying reef fishes.

The seaside earth watch, through which the WWF had hoped to create a heightened sense of awareness of the marine environment, is only the first of many activities planned. Long term, WWF-Philippines hopes to build a pool of members who have attended two or more of these seminars with the intention of tapping them as field volunteers.

The "Earthwatch by the Sea" workshop has given members an opportunity to reconnect with Mother Nature. And for an organization like WWF, this affiliation with earth is the best of the natural resources it advocates to preserve.

For more information on membership, call Marga Espiritu at 433-3220 to 22 or e-mail mespiritu@wwf-phil.org.ph

Kenny's premium pan-roasted pork chops, topped with a special cranberry sauce, complete with one side dish, rice and a muffin. Get an additional side dish and pay only P 128.00.

Nestea
Take the plunge!

Kenny Rogers
Roasters
There's Goodness Here.



WWF officer for information and communication, giving a lecture